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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

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PCS Special: 18 September 2025

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सोच में बदलाव ने मदद की: ग्रैंड स्विस चैंपियन वैशाली

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2. Mr. Modi wrote a Gujarati-language book which describes events during the Emergency.

Ans: Sangharsh Ma Gujarat

3. Which institution was replaced by the NITI Aayog? **Ans: Planning Commission**

4. Mr. Modi entered the Gujarat State Legislature after winning a byelection in? **Ans: Rajkot II**

5. Mr. Modi wrote a foreword to a 2014 textbook by which Indian educationist? **Ans: Dinanath Batra**

6. PM was a candidate in 2 LS constituencies in 2014. **Ans: Varanasi, Vadodra**

Visual: This image signifies the launch of a new initiative in 2014. **Ans: Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan on October 2, 2014**

Early Birds: C Saravanan | Sadhan Kumar Panda | Murari Mishra | Anubhav gupta

QUIZ

BJP's Historic Victory in the 2014 Indian General Election

• This victory marked the **first time since 1984** that a single party won enough seats in the **Lok Sabha** to form a government without coalition support.

Key Facts

- **Date of Election:** April–May 2014
- **Total Seats in Lok Sabha:** 543
- **Seats Needed for Majority:** 272
- **BJP's Seats Won:** 282
- **NDA's Total Seats:** 336
- **BJP's Vote Share:** Approximately 31.2%
- **Congress's Seats:** 44, marking its worst performance in history

• The **1984 general election** was the last instance where a single party, the **Indian National Congress (INC)**, secured an outright majority in the Lok Sabha.

Sangharsh Ma Gujarat: A Glimpse into Narendra Modi's Role During the Emergency

Introduction to the Book

- **Title:** *Sangharsh Ma Gujarat* (Translation: *In the Struggles of Gujarat*)
- **Author:** Narendra Modi
- **Language:** Gujarati
- **Publication Year:** 1978
- **Context:** Written during Modi's tenure as an RSS pracharak, the book offers a firsthand account of the anti-Emergency movement in Gujarat during the 1975–77 period.
- **Themes:**
 - **Resistance:** Chronicles the efforts of individuals and groups who opposed the Emergency's imposition.
 - **Censorship:** Highlights the challenges posed by media restrictions and the spread of information.
 - **Civil Liberties:** Discusses the impact of the Emergency on fundamental rights and freedoms.
- **Legacy:** The book reflects on the resilience of democratic institutions and the importance of vigilance in safeguarding them.

NITI Aayog and the Replacement of the Planning Commission

- **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India) was established to replace the **Planning Commission**, which was created in 1950.



- **Date of Establishment:** 1st January 2015, by the Government of India under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- **Objective:** To foster cooperative federalism, strategic policy thinking, and a more dynamic approach to economic planning, replacing the top-down model of the Planning Commission.

Background: Planning Commission

- **Established:** 15th March 1950 by Jawaharlal Nehru's government.
- **Objective:** Formulate Five-Year Plans for India, allocate central resources to states, and guide overall national economic development.
- **Criticism:** Over time, the Planning Commission was viewed as rigid, centralized, and less responsive to state-specific needs.

Formation of NITI Aayog

- **Reason for Replacement:**
 - Need for **bottom-up planning** and **state participation**.
 - Desire for a **think-tank approach** rather than direct allocation of funds.
 - Focus on **innovation, sustainable development, and strategic policy planning**.
- **Legal Status:** NITI Aayog was formed by an executive resolution, not through an act of Parliament.

Key Features of NITI Aayog

- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister of India.
- **Governing Council:** Chief Ministers of all States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Full-time member appointed by the PM.
- **Objectives:**
 - Foster **cooperative federalism** by involving states in decision-making.
 - Serve as a **policy think tank** for the government.
 - Promote **sustainable and inclusive development** strategies.
 - Monitor and evaluate **programs and initiatives** of the government.
- **Key Initiatives:**
 - **Aspirational Districts Programme:** Improving governance and development in backward districts.
 - **SDG Implementation:** Monitoring India's progress towards Sustainable Development Goals.
 - **State Rankings and Policy Guidance:** Providing policy support to states in health, education, and infrastructure.

Differences Between Planning Commission and NITI Aayog

- **Planning Commission:**
 - Centralized and top-down planning.
 - Focused on allocation of funds through Five-Year Plans.
 - Limited consultation with states.
- **NITI Aayog:**
 - Promotes **bottom-up planning**.
 - Acts as a **policy advisory body**, not fund allocation.
 - Emphasizes **cooperative federalism** and evidence-based policy-making.



Mr. Modi's Entry into Gujarat State Legislature

- **Narendra Modi**, before becoming the Chief Minister of Gujarat, had to first secure a seat in the **Gujarat State Legislature** to comply with constitutional requirements.
- Entry into the legislature was through a **bye-election**, a special election held when a legislative seat becomes vacant.

The Bye-Election

- **Constituency: Rajkot II**
- **Political Context:** Modi was appointed Chief Minister in **2001** after the resignation of his predecessor **Keshubhai Patel**.
- Since Modi had not contested the 1998 Gujarat Assembly elections, he needed to enter the legislative assembly within **six months** of assuming office, as mandated by the **Indian Constitution** (Article 164).

Foreword by Mr. Modi in a 2014 Textbook

- In **2014**, **Narendra Modi**, as the newly elected Prime Minister of India, wrote a **foreword** for a textbook authored by the Indian educationist **Dinanath Batra**.
- The foreword was aimed at endorsing the educational content and vision reflected in the textbook.

Dinanath Batra

- **Dinanath Batra** is a well-known **Indian educationist** and publisher.
- He has been associated with **revising and promoting textbooks** that emphasize Indian heritage, culture, and historical perspectives in school curricula.
- Batra has been involved in various educational debates regarding the **representation of history and culture** in textbooks.

Textbook Context

- The textbook by Dinanath Batra covered aspects of **Indian history, culture, and civics** suitable for school-level education.
- It was part of broader debates on **curriculum reform** and **educational content** in India during the early 2010s.

PM Modi's Candidature in 2014 Lok Sabha Elections

- In the **2014 Indian General Elections**, **Narendra Modi**, the then **Prime Ministerial candidate of the BJP**, contested from **two Lok Sabha constituencies: Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh and **Vadodara** in Gujarat.
- Contesting from two constituencies is **permitted under Indian election law**, allowing candidates to secure a parliamentary seat even if they lose in one constituency.



WASHINGTON

Trump names India as part of 23 illicit drug producing countries



PCS

AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump has named China, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan among 23 major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries, saying that by manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these nations are threatening the safety of the U.S. and its citizens. PTI

Trump names India as part of 23 illicit drug producing countries
ट्रम्प ने भारत को 23 अवैध मादक द्रव्य उत्पादक देशों का हिस्सा बताया

• U.S. President **Donald Trump** has named **China, Afghanistan, India** and **Pakistan** among **23 major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries**, saying that by manufacturing and tracking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these nations are threatening the safety of the **U.S.** and its **citizens**.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने चीन, अफगानिस्तान, भारत और पाकिस्तान को 23 प्रमुख मादक द्रव्य पारगमन या प्रमुख अवैध मादक द्रव्य उत्पादक देशों में शामिल किया है, यह कहते हुए कि अवैध दवाओं और पूर्ववर्ती रसायनों के निर्माण और तस्करी के माध्यम से ये राष्ट्र अमेरिका और उसके नागरिकों की सुरक्षा को खतरे में डाल रहे हैं।

PATRIOTIC



On hold: A group of tourists leaves on foot due to a protest by residents in Machu Picchu on Tuesday. AFP

Peru evacuates 1,600 tourists from Machu Picchu

PCS

Agence France-Presse

MACHU PICCHU

Peru has evacuated around 1,600 tourists from a train station that serves the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu after a local protest escalated into clashes with police.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983, the ancient fortified complex receives around 4,500 visitors a day, many of them foreigners, according to the Tourism Ministry.

Visitors travel some 110 km by train from the city of Cusco – the Inca empire's ancient capital – to the Aguas Calientes train station, then take a bus to the entrance of Machu Picchu.

Residents placed logs and rocks on the tracks on Monday to demand that their interests be represented in the bidding process for the new bus operator, after the previous firm's 30-year concession expired.

Authorities on Tuesday evening evacuated 156 visitors, adding to the approximately 1,400 that were brought out before.

A police statement said 14 officers were injured in clashes with protesters during Monday night's temporary unblocking of the tracks.

Among the foreign tourists were French, Japanese, American, Polish, Brazilian, German, and Portuguese nationals.

The protest is organised by the Machu Picchu Defense Front, which announced in a Sunday statement that it would continue its action indefinitely until the new transport company started operations.

Tourism is key to the economy of Peru.

- The **protest** is organised by the **Machu Picchu Defense Front**, which announced in a **Sunday statement** that it would continue its action **indefinitely** until the new **transport company** started operations.
यह विरोध माचू पिच्चू डिफेंस फ्रंट द्वारा आयोजित किया गया है, जिसने रविवार के बयान में घोषणा की कि

Peru evacuates 1,600 tourists from Machu Picchu

पेरू ने माचू पिच्चू से 1,600 पर्यटकों को निकाला

- Peru has evacuated around **1,600 tourists** from a train station that serves the **Inca citadel of Machu Picchu** after a local protest escalated into clashes with **police**.

पेरू ने माचू पिच्चू के इंका किले तक जाने वाले ट्रेन स्टेशन से लगभग **1,600 पर्यटकों** को निकाला है, जब एक **स्थानीय विरोध** बढ़कर **पुलिस** के साथ झड़पों में बदल गया।

- A **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since **1983**, the ancient fortified complex receives around **4,500 visitors a day**, many of them **foreigners**, according to the **Tourism Ministry**.

1983 से एक **यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल**, यह प्राचीन किला परिसर प्रतिदिन लगभग **4,500 आगंतुकों** को प्राप्त करता है, जिनमें से कई **विदेशी** होते हैं, **पर्यटन मंत्रालय** के अनुसार।

- Visitors travel some **110 km** by **train** from the city of **Cusco** — the **Inca empire's ancient capital** — to the **Aguas Calientes train station**, then take a **bus** to the entrance of **Machu Picchu**.

आगंतुक **कुस्को** शहर — जो **इंका साम्राज्य की प्राचीन राजधानी** है — से **110 किमी** की यात्रा **ट्रेन** से करते हैं और **आगुआस कालेन्टेस ट्रेन स्टेशन** पहुंचने के बाद **बस** से **माचू पिच्चू** के प्रवेश द्वार तक जाते हैं।

- Residents placed **logs and rocks** on the tracks on **Monday** to demand that their interests be represented in the **bidding process** for the new **bus operator**, after the previous firm's **30-year concession** expired.

निवासियों ने **सोमवार** को पटरियों पर **लकड़ियां और पत्थर** रख दिए, यह मांग करने के लिए कि नए **बस ऑपरेटर** के लिए **बोली प्रक्रिया** में उनके हितों का प्रतिनिधित्व किया जाए, क्योंकि पिछले फर्म की **30 वर्षीय रियायत** समाप्त हो गई थी।

- **Authorities** on **Tuesday evening** evacuated **156 visitors**, adding to the approximately **1,400** that were brought out before.

अधिकारियों ने **मंगलवार शाम** को **156 आगंतुकों** को निकाला, जिससे पहले निकाले गए लगभग **1,400** लोगों की संख्या में इजाफा हुआ।

- A **police statement** said **14 officers** were injured in clashes with **protesters** during **Monday night's temporary unblocking of the tracks**.

एक **पुलिस बयान** में कहा गया कि **सोमवार रात पटरियों को अस्थायी रूप से खोलने** के दौरान **प्रदर्शनकारियों** के साथ हुई झड़पों में **14 अधिकारी** घायल हो गए।

- Among the **foreign tourists** were **French, Japanese, American, Polish, Brazilian, German, and Portuguese nationals**.

विदेशी पर्यटकों में **फ्रांसीसी, जापानी, अमेरिकी, पोलिश, ब्राज़ीलियाई, जर्मन और पुर्तगाली नागरिक** शामिल थे।



यह कार्रवाई तब तक अनिश्चितकाल तक जारी रहेगी जब तक नई परिवहन कंपनी अपना संचालन शुरू नहीं करती।

Tourism is key to the economy of Peru.

पर्यटन, पेरू की अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।

Machu Picchu

- Machu Picchu is a 15th-century Inca citadel located in the Eastern Cordillera of southern Peru, South America.
- Built by the Inca emperor Pachacuti (1438–1472).
- Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1983) and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World (2007).
- Known as the “Lost City of the Incas”.

Geographical Location

- Situated on a **mountain ridge (2,430 m above sea level)**.
- Lies above the **Urubamba River valley in Cusco Region, Peru**.
- Surrounded by high peaks of the Andes → strategic and defensive location.
- Access: From Cusco city (80 km) → by train or trekking via the **Inca Trail**.

Historical Background

- Built around **1450 AD under Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui**.
- Served as a **royal estate / ceremonial centre** for Inca rulers.
- Abandoned in the **16th century** during Spanish conquest (but not discovered by Spaniards).
- Rediscovered in **1911 by Hiram Bingham**, an American explorer.

Structure and Architecture

- Area covers about **325 sq. km** with terraced fields, plazas, temples, and residences.
- Built in **classical Inca style** – polished dry-stone walls (ashlar technique).
- Major structures:
 - **Temple of the Sun**
 - **Intihuatana Stone** (ritual stone linked to astronomy & solstices)
 - **Room of the Three Windows**
 - Agricultural terraces for farming & erosion control.

Cultural and Religious Significance

- Served as a **ceremonial, astronomical, and agricultural hub**.
- The **Intihuatana stone** is believed to be a solar clock/calendar.
- Worship of **Inti (Sun God)** and rituals tied to agriculture and astronomy.



New Seven Wonders of the World (2007)

1. Great Wall of China (China)

- World's **longest man-made structure** (~21,196 km).
- Built between **7th century BCE – 16th century CE** by different dynasties.
- Purpose: Defense against invasions (notably Mongols).
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987).

2. Petra (Jordan)

- Ancient **rock-cut city**, also known as the **Rose City** due to its pink sandstone cliffs.
- Built by the **Nabataeans** around **5th century BCE**.
- Famous sites: **Al-Khazneh (The Treasury)**, Monastery.
- Rediscovered in **1812** by Swiss explorer **Johann Burckhardt**.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1985).

3. Christ the Redeemer (Brazil)

- Huge **Art Deco-style statue of Jesus Christ** in Rio de Janeiro.
- Height: **30 meters (98 ft)**, arms spanning **28 meters**.
- Built between **1922–1931**, inaugurated on **12 October 1931**.
- Symbol of peace and Christianity.
- One of the most recognized landmarks in Latin America.

4. Machu Picchu (Peru)

- **15th-century Inca citadel** located high in the Andes Mountains (~2,430 m).
- Built under Emperor **Pachacuti (1438–1472)**.
- Rediscovered in **1911** by **Hiram Bingham**.
- Known as the "**Lost City of the Incas**".
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1983).

5. Chichen Itza (Mexico)

- Ancient **Maya city** (9th–12th century CE) located in Yucatán.
- Famous structure: **El Castillo (Temple of Kukulcán)**, a pyramid dedicated to the feathered serpent god.
- Shows Maya expertise in **astronomy and mathematics**.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1988).

6. Roman Colosseum (Italy)

- Ancient amphitheater in Rome, completed in **80 CE** under Emperor **Titus**.
- Capacity: **50,000–80,000 spectators**.
- Used for gladiatorial contests, public spectacles, dramas.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1980).
- Symbol of Roman engineering and culture.



7. Taj Mahal (India)

- Built by **Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan** (1632–1648) in memory of his wife **Mumtaz Mahal**.
- Located in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India**.
- Made of white marble, combining **Persian, Islamic, and Indian architecture**.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1983).
- Known as the “**Symbol of Eternal Love**”.

A change in mindset helped: Grand Swiss champion Vaishali

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CHESS

K. Keerthivasan

CHENNAI

India's R. Vaishali defended her title in the Grand Swiss Chess League, which no other player in the open or women's section had done before. But it was a tournament the 24-year-old from Chennai was not keen to play in the first place.

After a poor Chennai Grandmasters in August where she managed just one point (two draws) and suffered seven straight losses, Vaishali was low on confidence. It was at the insistence of her mentor and coach R. B. Ramesh, that she decided to compete.

“I forgot that I was the defending champion! It was two years ago. A lot of things happened in bet-



Vaishali. FIDE

ween. Especially because the Chennai event did not go well,” said Vaishali in an interview with *The Hindu* here on Wednesday.

“But Ramesh sir and Karthikeyan Murali told me to play as it was a different field from the Chennai GMs,” said added.

“I didn't do any special preparation. I was just relaxing at home. Maybe the change in mindset helped,” she said.

Winning the first round against IM Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova was a huge relief for Vaishali. “It was like I forgot how it felt to win a game. The wins (she won her first three games) gave me a lot of confidence,” said Vaishali.

A defeat at the hands of Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan in the eighth round nearly dented her chances, but a crucial triumph over Ukraine's Mariya Muzychuk in the penultimate round proved crucial.

“I am happy that I didn't collapse after the defeat to Bibisara, which was very important. I was lucky to win against Mariya,” she said.

Vaishali said she hasn't planned anything for the Candidates. “I want to train well and be in the best frame of mind,” she said.



A change in mindset helped: Grand Swiss champion Vaishali सोच में बदलाव ने मदद की: ग्रैंड स्विस चैंपियन वैशाली

- **India's R. Vaishali** defended her title in the **Grand Swiss Chess League**, which no other player in the **open** or **women's section** had done before.
भारत की आर. वैशाली ने ग्रैंड स्विस चेस लीग में अपना खिताब बचाया, जो ओपन या महिला वर्ग में किसी अन्य खिलाड़ी ने पहले नहीं किया था।
- But it was a tournament the **24-year-old** from **Chennai** was not keen to play in the first place. लेकिन यह एक टूर्नामेंट था जिसमें **चेन्नई** की **24 वर्षीय** खिलाड़ी शुरू में खेलने के इच्छुक नहीं थीं।
- After a poor **Chennai Grandmasters** in **August** where she managed just **one point (two draws)** and suffered **seven straight losses**, **Vaishali** was low on confidence.
अगस्त में खराब **चेन्नई ग्रैंडमास्टर्स** के बाद, जहाँ उन्होंने सिर्फ **एक अंक (दो ड्रॉ)** हासिल किया और **सात लगातार हारें** झेलीं, **वैशाली** का आत्मविश्वास बहुत कम हो गया था।
- It was at the insistence of her **mentor and coach R. B. Ramesh**, that she decided to compete.
यह उनके **गुरु और कोच आर. बी. रमेश** के जोर देने पर था कि उन्होंने भाग लेने का निर्णय लिया।
- "I forgot that I was the defending champion! It was two years ago. A lot of things happened in between. Especially because the **Chennai event** did not go well," said **Vaishali** in an interview with **The Hindu** here on **Wednesday**.
"मैं भूल गई थी कि मैं **डिफेंडिंग चैंपियन** हूँ! यह दो साल पहले की बात है। इस बीच बहुत सी चीजें हुईं। खासकर क्योंकि **चेन्नई इवेंट** अच्छा नहीं गया," **वैशाली** ने यहाँ **बुधवार** को **द हिंदू** को दिए इंटरव्यू में कहा।
- "But **Ramesh sir** and **Karthikeyan Murali** told me to play as it was a different field from the **Chennai GMs**," she added.
"लेकिन **रमेश सर** और **कार्तिकेयन मुरली** ने मुझे खेलने के लिए कहा क्योंकि यह **चेन्नई जीएम्स** से अलग क्षेत्र था," उन्होंने जोड़ा।
- "I didn't do any special preparation. I was just relaxing at home. Maybe the change in mindset helped," she said.
"मैंने कोई खास तैयारी नहीं की। मैं बस घर पर आराम कर रही थी। शायद **सोच में बदलाव** ने मदद की," उन्होंने कहा।
- Winning the first round against **IM Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova** was a huge relief for **Vaishali**.
आईएम गुलरुखबेगिम तोखिरजोनोंवा के खिलाफ पहला राउंड जीतना **वैशाली** के लिए बहुत बड़ी राहत थी।
- "It was like I forgot how it felt to win a game. The wins (she won her first three games) gave me a lot of confidence," said **Vaishali**.
"ऐसा लगा जैसे मैं भूल गई थी कि खेल जीतने का एहसास कैसा होता है। ये जीतें (उन्होंने अपने पहले **तीन खेल जीते**) ने मुझे बहुत आत्मविश्वास दिया," **वैशाली** ने कहा।
- A defeat at the hands of **Bibisara Assaubayeva** of **Kazakhstan** in the **eighth round** nearly dented her chances, but a crucial triumph over **Ukraine's Mariya Muzychuk** in the **penultimate round** proved crucial.
कजाकिस्तान की **बिबिसारा असाउबायेवा** से **आठवें राउंड** में मिली हार ने उनके मौके लगभग खत्म कर दिए थे, लेकिन **यूक्रेन** की **मारिया मुझिचुक** पर **अंतिम से पहले राउंड** में मिली जीत निर्णायक साबित हुई।
- "I am happy that I didn't collapse after the defeat to **Bibisara**, which was very important. I was lucky to win against **Mariya**," she said.
"मुझे खुशी है कि **बिबिसारा** से हारने के बाद मैं नहीं टूटी, जो बहुत महत्वपूर्ण था। मैं भाग्यशाली थी कि **मारिया** के खिलाफ जीत सकी," उन्होंने कहा।
- **Vaishali** said she hasn't planned anything for the **Candidates**.
वैशाली ने कहा कि उन्होंने **कैंडिडेट्स** के लिए कुछ भी योजना नहीं बनाई है।

GS Paper 1: History, Society and Geography



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PATRIOTIC IAS



Welfare board for nomadic, denotified groups seeks funds, staff, permanent panel status

GS I: Society

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

More than five years after the Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC) was first set up, its two existing members have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking more members, staff, financial powers, statutory backing, and permanent Commission status.

Without such measures, they warned, the Board is unable to address the communities' grievances effectively, and has "hindered sustained progress".

The letter – signed by DWBDNC members Bharatbhai Patni and Pravin Ghuge, both BJP leaders – was sent to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in April this year, but is yet to get any response, sources told *The Hindu*.

In December 2017, the Idate Commission had compiled a list of about 1,200 denotified (DNT), nomadic (NT), and semi-nomadic (SNT) tribal communities, all of which are already part of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), or other back-



The panel members also called for dedicated budget allocations for the welfare of nomadic and semi-nomadic groups. FILE PHOTO

ward class (OBC) lists, and another 269 communities which have not yet been classified as SC, ST, or OBC. The Anthropological Survey of India then studied these communities and recommended their categorisation, but the Social Justice Ministry is yet to act on these recommendations. In their letter, Mr. Patni and Mr. Ghuge "strongly urge" the Centre to recognise the entire list legally as SC/DNT, ST/DNT, OBC/DNT, or General/DNT through Gazette notifications.

Funding and research
They also called for dedicated Budget allocations at

the Central and State levels for these communities, nationwide directives to standardise community certificates, which are currently issued by just seven States, and recommended modifications to the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED), administered by the Social Justice Ministry.

"Even after 3 years, we could not implement it [SEED] on a wider scale," the members said. They asked the PM to direct improvements to the scheme, including financial assistance to buy land for housing, NOCs for people who have lived for over 20 years in kutcha homes on land

they do not own, and educational benefits for denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic groups at par with what is available for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

'Lack of data'

Seeking to "prioritise concrete actions" to implement the Idate Commission's recommendations, the members said, "There is a serious lack of reliable, region-specific, and comprehensive data on NTDNT communities. This makes evidence-based policy formulation a challenge."

The DWBDNC was constituted in February 2019 with the NDA government saying that it was "committed to reach the most deprived citizens". Though the Idate Commission had called for a permanent Commission for DNTs, the government said that would result in a jurisdictional overlap, as many of these communities already fall under either SC, ST, or OBC categories. Instead, it set up the DWBDNC under the aegis of the Social Justice Ministry.

A little over five years later, the Board only has two nominated members, with

three more yet to be appointed. It has no chairman or financial adviser, and limited financial authority, the two members told the PM. They added that Deputy Secretaries and Undersecretaries need to be appointed, and that "inadequate office space limits its functionality".

According to the Board's website, however, Social Justice Secretary Amit Yadav currently holds the post of chairman. The Board is also served by Chief Executive Officer V. Appa Rao, one Additional Secretary of the Social Justice Ministry, and one Deputy Secretary.

It is also supposed to have one representative each from the Tribal Affairs Ministry and the Department of School Education, as well as five nominated members working in this domain.

Noting that the DWBDNC notification said members would have a rank equivalent to Joint Secretary, Mr. Patni and Mr. Ghuge asked for their pay-scales to also be aligned, to "resolve administrative hurdles, such as obtaining ID cards, and ensure parity in their official capacity".

Demonstrators protesting against the government's proposed cost-cutting measures during a rally against nationalist premier Fico in Bratislava, Slovakia on Tuesday. Around 18,000 people are estimated to have attended the protest called by the Opposition.



Welfare board for nomadic, denotified groups seeks funds, staff, permanent panel status

घुमंतु, विमुक्त समूहों के लिए कल्याण बोर्ड ने धन, स्टाफ, स्थायी पैनल का दर्जा मांगा

- More than five years after the **Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC)** was first set up, its two existing members have written to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, seeking more members, staff, financial powers, statutory backing, and permanent Commission status.
विमुक्त, घुमंतु और अर्ध-घुमंतु समुदायों के विकास और कल्याण बोर्ड (DWBDNC) की स्थापना के पांच साल से अधिक समय बाद, इसके दो वर्तमान सदस्यों ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को पत्र लिखकर अधिक सदस्य, स्टाफ, वित्तीय अधिकार, वैधानिक समर्थन और स्थायी आयोग का दर्जा मांगा।
- Without such measures, they warned, the Board is unable to address the communities' grievances effectively, and has "hindered sustained progress".
उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि इन उपायों के बिना बोर्ड इन समुदायों की शिकायतों को प्रभावी ढंग से संबोधित नहीं कर सकता और इससे "लगातार प्रगति में बाधा" आई है।
- The letter — signed by **DWBDNC members Bharatbhai Patni and Pravin Ghuge**, both **BJP leaders** — was sent to the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)** in **April this year**, but is yet to get any response, sources told *The Hindu*.
यह पत्र — जिस पर **DWBDNC** के सदस्य **भरतभाई पटनी और प्रवीन घुगे**, दोनों **भाजपा नेता** हैं, के हस्ताक्षर हैं — इस वर्ष अप्रैल में **प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय (PMO)** को भेजा गया था, लेकिन अब तक कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिली है, सूत्रों ने *द हिंदू* को बताया।
- In **December 2017**, the **Idate Commission** had compiled a list of about **1,200 denotified (DNT), nomadic (NT), and semi-nomadic (SNT) tribal communities**, all of which are already part of **Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), or other backward class (OBC)** lists, and another **269 communities** which have not yet been classified as SC, ST, or OBC.
दिसंबर 2017 में, **इदाते आयोग** ने लगभग **1,200 विमुक्त (DNT), घुमंतु (NT) और अर्ध-घुमंतु (SNT)** जनजातीय समुदायों की सूची तैयार की थी, जो पहले से ही **अनुसूचित जाति (SC), अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST)** या **अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (OBC)** की सूची का हिस्सा हैं, और अन्य **269 समुदायों** की पहचान की गई जो अभी तक SC, ST या OBC के रूप में वर्गीकृत नहीं हैं।
- **The Anthropological Survey of India** then studied these communities and recommended their categorisation, but the **Social Justice Ministry** is yet to act on these recommendations.
इसके बाद **भारतीय मानवशास्त्रीय सर्वेक्षण** ने इन समुदायों का अध्ययन किया और उनके वर्गीकरण की सिफारिश की, लेकिन **सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय** ने अभी तक इन सिफारिशों पर कार्रवाई नहीं की है।
- In their letter, **Mr. Patni and Mr. Ghuge** "strongly urge" the Centre to recognise the entire list legally as **SC/DNT, ST/DNT, OBC/DNT, or General/DNT** through **Gazette notifications**.
अपने पत्र में, **श्री पटनी और श्री घुगे** ने केंद्र से जोर देकर आग्रह किया कि पूरी सूची को **गजट अधिसूचना** के माध्यम से **SC/DNT, ST/DNT, OBC/DNT, या सामान्य/DNT** के रूप में कानूनी मान्यता दी जाए।

Funding and research

वित्त पोषण और अनुसंधान

- They also called for dedicated **Budget allocations** at the **Central and State levels** for these communities, nationwide directives to **standardise community certificates**, which are currently issued by just **seven States**, and recommended modifications to the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)**, administered by the **Social Justice Ministry**.
उन्होंने इन समुदायों के लिए **केंद्रीय और राज्य स्तर** पर समर्पित **बजट आवंटन**, देशव्यापी निर्देशों द्वारा **सामुदायिक प्रमाणपत्रों का मानकीकरण** (जो वर्तमान में केवल **सात राज्यों** द्वारा जारी किए जाते हैं), और **सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय** द्वारा संचालित **विमुक्त समुदायों के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण योजना (SEED)** में संशोधन की सिफारिश की।
- "Even after **3 years**, we could not implement it [SEED] on a wider scale," the members said.
सदस्यों ने कहा, "यहां तक कि **3 साल** बाद भी, हम इसे [SEED] को व्यापक स्तर पर लागू नहीं कर पाए हैं।"
- They asked the PM to direct improvements to the scheme, including **financial assistance** to buy land for **housing**, **NOCs** for people who have lived for over **20 years** in **kutchha homes** on land they do not own, and **educational benefits** for denotified, nomadic and semi-



nomadic groups at par with what is available for **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students**.

उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री से इस योजना में सुधार के निर्देश देने का आग्रह किया, जिसमें **आवास** के लिए भूमि खरीदने हेतु **वित्तीय सहायता**, उन लोगों के लिए **एनओसी** शामिल हो जो **20 वर्षों** से **कच्चे घरों** में ऐसी भूमि पर रह रहे हैं जो उनकी नहीं है, और विमुक्त, घुमंतु और अर्ध-घुमंतु समूहों के लिए **शैक्षिक लाभ** जो **अनुसूचित जाति** और **अनुसूचित जनजाति** के छात्रों को उपलब्ध हैं।

‘Lack of data’ ‘डेटा की कमी’

- Seeking to “prioritise concrete actions” to implement the **Idate Commission’s recommendations**, the members said, “**There is a serious lack of reliable, region-specific, and comprehensive data on NTDNT communities. This makes evidence-based policy formulation a challenge.**”
इदाते आयोग की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिए “ठोस कदमों को प्राथमिकता” देने की मांग करते हुए, सदस्यों ने कहा, “**NTDNT समुदायों पर विश्वसनीय, क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट और व्यापक डेटा की गंभीर कमी है। इससे साक्ष्य-आधारित नीति निर्माण एक चुनौती बन जाता है।**”
- The **DWBDNC** was constituted in **February 2019** with the **NDA government** saying that it was “committed to reach the most deprived citizens”.
DWBDNC का गठन **फरवरी 2019** में किया गया था, जब **एनडीए सरकार** ने कहा था कि वह “सबसे वंचित नागरिकों तक पहुंचने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध” है।
- Though the **Idate Commission** had called for a **permanent Commission for DNTs**, the government said that would result in a **jurisdictional overlap**, as many of these communities already fall under either **SC, ST, or OBC** categories.
हालांकि **इदाते आयोग** ने **DNTs** के लिए एक **स्थायी आयोग** की मांग की थी, सरकार ने कहा कि इससे **अधिकार क्षेत्रीय ओवरलैप** हो जाएगा, क्योंकि इनमें से कई समुदाय पहले से ही **SC, ST** या **OBC** श्रेणियों के अंतर्गत आते हैं।
- Instead, it set up the **DWBDNC** under the aegis of the **Social Justice Ministry**.
इसके बजाय, इसे **सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय** के अधीन **DWBDNC** के रूप में स्थापित किया गया।
- **A little over five years later, the Board only has two nominated members, with three more yet to be appointed.**
पांच साल से कुछ अधिक समय बाद, बोर्ड में केवल **दो नामित सदस्य** हैं, जबकि **तीन और को अभी नियुक्त किया जाना बाकी** है।
- **It has no chairman or financial adviser, and limited financial authority, the two members told the PM.**
इसमें **कोई अध्यक्ष** या **वित्तीय सलाहकार** नहीं है, और **वित्तीय अधिकार सीमित** हैं, दो सदस्यों ने प्रधानमंत्री को बताया।
- They added that **Deputy Secretaries** and **Undersecretaries** need to be appointed, and that “inadequate office space limits its functionality”.
उन्होंने जोड़ा कि **उप सचिव** और **अंडर सचिव** की नियुक्ति की जानी चाहिए और “अपर्याप्त कार्यालय स्थान इसकी कार्यक्षमता को सीमित करता है।”
- According to the Board’s website, however, **Social Justice Secretary Amit Yadav** currently holds the post of **chairman**.
हालांकि, बोर्ड की वेबसाइट के अनुसार, वर्तमान में **सामाजिक न्याय सचिव अमित यादव** अध्यक्ष का पद संभाल रहे हैं।
- The Board is also served by **Chief Executive Officer V. Appa Rao**, one **Additional Secretary** of the Social Justice Ministry, and one **Deputy Secretary**.
बोर्ड को **मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी वी. अप्पा राव**, सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय के एक अतिरिक्त सचिव और एक **उप सचिव** द्वारा भी सेवा प्रदान की जाती है।
- **It is also supposed to have one representative each from the Tribal Affairs Ministry and the Department of School Education, as well as five nominated members working in this domain.**
इसमें **जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय** और **स्कूल शिक्षा विभाग** से एक-एक प्रतिनिधि, साथ ही इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले **पांच नामित सदस्य** भी होने चाहिए।



- Noting that the DWBDNC notification said members would have a rank equivalent to Joint Secretary, Mr. Patni and Mr. Ghuge asked for their pay scales to also be aligned, to “resolve administrative hurdles, such as obtaining ID cards, and ensure parity in their official capacity”.

यह ध्यान देते हुए कि DWBDNC अधिसूचना में कहा गया है कि सदस्यों का पद संयुक्त सचिव के बराबर होगा, श्री पटनी और श्री घुगे ने अपनी वेतनमान को भी समान करने का आग्रह किया, ताकि "आईडी कार्ड प्राप्त करने जैसी प्रशासनिक बाधाओं को हल किया जा सके और उनकी आधिकारिक क्षमता में समानता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।"

A little-known resistance in Malabar region during the run-up to Independence

A new book sheds light on the 'Malabar Revolt' in an area which had a history of Muslims and Hindus collaboratively persevering in their defiance against colonial forces; other books explore its links to the Khilafat movement and why it is more than a peasant uprising

GS I: History

Ziya Us Salam

Growing up in Delhi, one had only a limited idea about the resistance movement in the Malabar region. The popular history books tended to treat it at best as a little outpost of the freedom movement. Noted historian Bipan Chandra in *India's Struggle for Independence* (Penguin) dubbed it as a peasant movement.

"In August 1921, peasant discontent erupted in the Malabar district of Kerala. Here, Mappila tenants rebelled. Their grievances related to lack of any security of tenure, renewal fees, high rents...the impetus for resistance had first come from the Malabar District Congress Conference at Manjeri in April 1920," Chandra writes. Sumit Sarkar too, confined himself to calling it an "anti-landlord revolt" in his book, *Modern India (1885-1947)*, published by Pearson. There have been noises about the association with the Khilafat movement in academic circles, though. Just as there are historians who see it merely from a communal prism. A holistic picture had failed to emerge.

Enlightening exploration

Some belated but well-deserved attention on the resistance movement has come courtesy Abbas Panakkal's *Musalial King: Decolonial Historiography of Malabar's Resistance* (Bloomsbury). Starting off as an exploratory exercise on the 75th anniversary of the movement, Panakkal's venture transforms into an enlightening journey.

Early in the book, the author writes, "The socio-geographical landscape of our

community underwent profound transformations in the wake of the cataclysmic events of 1921-22. This epoch witnessed a staggering loss of lives, the forced displacement of families... The old mosque of Tirurangadi emerged as a veritable repository of memories and narratives, a historical bastion of ideological resistance against the British colonial apparatus." Fittingly, it was on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the 1921 resistance that Panakkal started his exploration, speaking to the family members of those directly involved.

Among them was Muhammed Ali Musalial, grandson of Ali Musalial, a luminary of the 1921 struggle. The British referred to Ali Musalial as a king; the locals regarded him as a community and spiritual leader, calling him Musalial Uppapa. Indeed, if Musalial was a 'king', Malabar was his 'kingdom'.

Incidentally, the term Malabar is derived from the vernacular Mala, signifying hill, and the affix originating from the Arabic word *barr*, which means the source of all goodness. The region had a long tradition of anti-colonial resistance dating back to the 16th century. "Muslims and Hindus collaboratively persevered in their resistance against colonial forces," writes Panakkal.

This strong anti-colonial stance had unforeseen consequences. The British, with not a little help from some Indian officials, sought to undermine the movement. Among them was C. Gopalan Nair, Malabar district deputy collector, who "unabashedly deployed his literary prowess in favour of the British cause". Observes Panakkal: "The usage of terms

such as Malabar Revolt and Moplah Rebellion to delineate these struggles is emblematic of this issue. Revolt itself is a term crafted by colonial administration, characterising violent actions against a recognised government or ruler."

'Peaceful coexistence'

There were others, though, whose hearts beat for the locals, luminaries who either linked the resistance to the Khilafat movement or, in isolation, read it as an agrarian struggle. Among them were Saumyendranath Tagore, who regarded it as "an organic and spontaneous 'uprising' of the Malabar peasantry against British imperial rule" and E.M.S.

Namboodiripad, who too "didn't discount the role played by agrarian discontent". There was a common thread: the oppression and exploitation meted out by colonial officials and landlords was no less severe upon the Hindu peasants as they were on their Muslim counterparts. Writes Panakkal, "The Malabar narrative heralded a rare phenomenon: the harmonious convergence of Hindus and Muslims. This coalition was underpinned by a shared objective – to oust the oppressor – and a collective aspiration for a peaceful coexistence in the region."

It is something with which even R.N. Hitchcock, police superintendent of Malabar, agreed. As written by N.P. Chekkutty in *Mappila and Comrades: A Century of Communist-Muslim Relations* (Other Books). "Hitchcock also reveals that Hindus were involved in the rebellion, at least in some parts of the affected areas. "The Hindus took an active part only in the extreme south-eastern area of the Valluvanad taluk and in small

numbers for a concise time. They were then responsible for much property damage." In his persuasively argued book, with much of the focus on the post-resistance time in the late 1930s and 40s, Chekkutty also talks of the rebels not harming any substantial section of the local population before going on to document the failure of the Congress to retain local Muslim support after the resistance movement. It was a vacuum which both the Communist Party of India and the All India Muslim League attempted to fill.

The Khilafat angle

Interestingly, against this background of common cause transcending the confines of faith came the pan-Islamist Khilafat movement. Things became even more ironic as Malabar's historical tapestry of anti-colonial resistance "had been woven with threads of unity binding Muslims and non-Muslims in a shared 'jihad' to safeguard the throne of the Hindu king, the Zamorin of Calicut," as analysed by Panakkal. Khilafat, Non-Cooperation, Mappila, with seemingly disparate social elements, all fused to bring about a strong anti-colonial movement.

Indeed, here both the communities enjoyed a rare camaraderie, and there was a happy collective involvement even in religiously significant events like the *mercha* and *utsavam*. During the latter, Muslim families returned with bags full of jaggery candies, much like Ali Musalial used to do for Amina, his daughter. Sums up Panakkal: "The experience of Muslims and Islam in South India is different from the experience in North India, and this is not trivial."

A little-known resistance in Malabar region during the run-up to Independence

स्वतंत्रता की तैयारी के दौरान मलबार क्षेत्र में कम जानी-पहचानी प्रतिरोध

Malabar Resistance Movement

मलबार प्रतिरोध आंदोलन

- Growing up in Delhi, one had only a **limited idea** about the **resistance movement** in the **Malabar region**. दिल्ली में पले-बढ़े व्यक्ति को **मलबार क्षेत्र में प्रतिरोध आंदोलन** के बारे में केवल **सीमित जानकारी** थी।
- The popular history books tended to treat it at best as a **little outpost of the freedom movement**. लोकप्रिय इतिहास की किताबें इसे अधिकतम **स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन का एक छोटा अड्डा** मानती थीं।



- Noted historian **Bipan Chandra** in **India's Struggle for Independence** (Penguin) dubbed it as a **peasant movement**.

प्रसिद्ध इतिहासकार **बिपन चंद्र** ने **India's Struggle for Independence** (पेंगुइन) में इसे **किसान आंदोलन** कहा।

- "In **August 1921**, **peasant discontent** erupted in the **Malabar district of Kerala**.

Here, **Mappila tenants rebelled**. Their grievances related to lack of any **security of tenure, renewal fees, high rents**...the

impetus for resistance had first come from the **Malabar District Congress Conference at Manjeri in April 1920**," Chandra writes.

बिपन चंद्र लिखते हैं, "अगस्त 1921 में, किसानों में असंतोष फूट पड़ा केरल के मलबार जिले में। यहाँ, मपिला किरायेदारों ने विद्रोह किया। उनकी शिकायतें भू-सुरक्षा की कमी, नवीकरण शुल्क, ऊँचे किराए से संबंधित थीं...प्रतिरोध की प्रेरणा पहली बार अप्रैल 1920 में मन्जेरी में मलबार जिला कांग्रेस सम्मेलन से आई थी।"

- Sumit Sarkar** too confined himself to calling it an "**anti-landlord revolt**" in his book, **Modern India (1885-1947)**, published by Pearson.

सुमित सरकार ने भी अपनी किताब **Modern India (1885-1947)** में इसे केवल "**जमींदार-विरोधी विद्रोह**" कहा।

- There have been noises about the association with the **Khilafat movement** in academic circles, though.

हालांकि, शैक्षणिक जगत में इसे **खिलाफत आंदोलन** से जोड़ने की चर्चा रही है।

- Just as there are historians who see it merely from a **communal prism**.

उसी तरह कुछ इतिहासकार इसे केवल **साम्प्रदायिक दृष्टिकोण** से देखते हैं।

- A holistic picture had failed to emerge.

एक **संपूर्ण तस्वीर** उभर कर नहीं आई थी।

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Moplah prisoners go on trial in Calicut. GETTY IMAGES



Enlightening Exploration

प्रकाशपूर्ण अन्वेषण

- Some belated but **well-deserved attention** on the resistance movement has come courtesy **Abbas Panakal's Musaliar King: Decolonial Historiography of Malabar's Resistance** (Bloomsbury).

कुछ देर से लेकिन उचित ध्यान प्रतिरोध आंदोलन पर आया है **अब्बास पनक्कल की किताब Musaliar King: Decolonial Historiography of Malabar's Resistance** (ब्लूमस्बरी) के कारण।

- Starting off as an **exploratory exercise** on the **75th anniversary** of the movement, Panakal's venture transforms into an **enlightening journey**.

आंदोलन की **75वीं वर्षगांठ** पर एक **अन्वेषणात्मक अभ्यास** के रूप में शुरू हुआ, पनक्कल का प्रयास एक **प्रकाशपूर्ण यात्रा** में बदल गया।

- Early in the book, the author writes, "The **socio-geographical landscape** of our community underwent profound transformations in the wake of the cataclysmic events of **1921-22**. This epoch witnessed a **staggering loss of lives**, the **forced displacement of families**... The old mosque of Tirurangadi emerged as a **veritable repository of memories and narratives**, a **historical bastion of ideological resistance** against the **British colonial apparatus**."

किताब के शुरुआती भाग में लेखक लिखते हैं, "हमारी समुदाय की **सामाजिक-भौगोलिक संरचना** ने **1921-22** की भयंकर घटनाओं के बाद गहन परिवर्तन देखे। इस युग ने **अत्यधिक जनहानि**, परिवारों का **बलपूर्वक**



विस्थापन देखा...तिरुंगडी की पुरानी मस्जिद स्मृतियों और कथाओं का वास्तविक भंडार बनकर उभरी, जो ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक तंत्र के खिलाफ विचारधारात्मक प्रतिरोध का ऐतिहासिक गढ़ है।”

- Fittingly, it was on the **commemoration of the 75th anniversary** of the **1921 resistance** that Panakkal started his exploration, speaking to the **family members** of those directly involved. उपयुक्त रूप से, पनक्कल ने अपनी खोज की शुरुआत **1921 प्रतिरोध की 75वीं वर्षगांठ** पर की, और सीधे शामिल लोगों के **परिवार के सदस्यों** से बातचीत की।
- Among them was **Muhammed Ali Musaliar**, grandson of **Ali Musaliar**, a **luminary of the 1921 struggle**. उनके बीच थे **मुहम्मद अली मुसलियार**, अली मुसलियार के पोते, जो **1921 के संघर्ष** के प्रमुख थे।
- The **British referred to Ali Musaliar as a king**; the locals regarded him as a **community and spiritual leader**, calling him **Musaliar Uppapa**. ब्रिटिश ने **अली मुसलियार** को **राजा** कहा; स्थानीय लोग उन्हें **समुदाय और आध्यात्मिक नेता** मानते थे, और **मुसलियार उप्पापा** कहते थे।
- Indeed, if **Musaliar** was a **‘king’**, **Malabar** was his **‘kingdom’**. वास्तव में, यदि **मुसलियार** एक **‘राजा’** थे, तो **मलबार** उनका **‘राज्य’** था।
- Incidentally, the term **Malabar** is derived from the vernacular **Mala**, signifying **hill**, and the affix originating from the Arabic word **barr**, which means **the source of all goodness**. वैसे, शब्द **मलबार** स्थानीय भाषा **माला** से आया है, जिसका अर्थ है **पहाड़ी**, और उपसर्ग अरबी शब्द **बैर** से, जिसका अर्थ है **सभी भलाई का स्रोत**।
- The region had a **long tradition of anti-colonial resistance** dating back to the **16th century**. इस क्षेत्र में **औपनिवेशिक विरोध की लंबी परंपरा** थी, जो **16वीं सदी** तक जाती है।
- “Muslims and Hindus collaboratively persevered in their resistance against colonial forces,” writes Panakkal. पनक्कल लिखते हैं, **“मुसलमान और हिन्दू मिलकर औपनिवेशिक ताकतों के खिलाफ प्रतिरोध में लगे रहे।”**
- This strong **anti-colonial stance** had **unforeseen consequences**. इस मजबूत **औपनिवेशिक विरोधी रुख** के अप्रत्याशित परिणाम हुए।
- The British, with not a little help from some **Indian officials**, sought to **undermine the movement**. ब्रिटिश, कुछ **भारतीय अधिकारियों** की मदद के साथ, इस **आंदोलन को कमजोर** करने की कोशिश की।
- Among them was **C. Gopalan Nair**, **Malabar district deputy collector**, who “unabashedly deployed his **literary prowess** in favour of the **British cause**”. उनके बीच थे **सी. गोपालन नायर**, **मलबार जिला उप-कलक्टर**, जिन्होंने **“ब्रिटिश कारण के पक्ष में अपनी साहित्यिक प्रतिभा बिना झिझक के इस्तेमाल की।”**
- Observes Panakkal: “The usage of terms such as **Malabar Revolt and Moplah Rebellion** to delineate these struggles is emblematic of this issue. **Revolt** itself is a term crafted by **colonial administration**, characterising **violent actions** against a recognised **government or ruler**.” पनक्कल का अवलोकन है: **“इन संघर्षों को व्यक्त करने के लिए Malabar Revolt और Moplah Rebellion जैसे शब्दों का उपयोग इस समस्या का प्रतीक है। Revolt शब्द स्वयं औपनिवेशिक प्रशासन द्वारा बनाया गया है, जो एक मान्यता प्राप्त सरकार या शासक के खिलाफ हिंसक कार्रवाई को दर्शाता है।”**

‘Peaceful Coexistence’

‘शांतिपूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व’

- There were others, though, whose hearts beat for the **locals**, luminaries who either linked the **resistance** to the **Khilafat movement** or, in isolation, read it as an **agrarian struggle**. हालांकि, कुछ अन्य लोग थे जिनका दिल **स्थानीय लोगों** के लिए धड़कता था, ऐसे प्रमुख जिन्होंने **प्रतिरोध आंदोलन को खिलाफत आंदोलन से जोड़ा या अलग होकर इसे कृषि संघर्ष** के रूप में देखा।
- Among them were **Saumyendranath Tagore**, who regarded it as “an **organic and spontaneous ‘uprising’** of the **Malabar peasantry** against **British imperial rule**” and **E.M.S. Namboodiripad**, who too “didn’t discount the role played by **agrarian discontent**”. उनके बीच थे **सौम्येन्द्रनाथ टैगोर**, जिन्होंने इसे **मलबार के किसानों का जैविक और स्वचालित ‘विद्रोह’** ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवादी शासन के खिलाफ माना और **ई.एम.एस. नंबूदरीपाद**, जिन्होंने भी **कृषि असंतोष** की भूमिका को नजरअंदाज नहीं किया।



- There was a common thread: the oppression and exploitation meted out by colonial officials and landlords was no less severe upon the Hindu peasants as they were on their Muslim counterparts.
एक साझा धागा था: औपनिवेशिक अधिकारियों और जमींदारों द्वारा किया गया दमन और शोषण हिंदू किसानों के लिए भी उतना ही कठोर था जितना उनके मुस्लिम समकक्षों के लिए।
- Writes Panakkal, “The Malabar narrative heralded a rare phenomenon: the harmonious convergence of Hindus and Muslims. This coalition was underpinned by a shared objective — to oust the oppressor — and a collective aspiration for a peaceful coexistence in the region.”
पनक्कल लिखते हैं, “मलबार की कथा ने एक दुर्लभ घटना की शुरुआत की: हिंदू और मुस्लिमों का सामंजस्यपूर्ण संगम। इस गठबंधन का आधार था एक साझा उद्देश्य — उत्पीड़क को हटाना — और क्षेत्र में शांतिपूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व की सामूहिक आकांक्षा।”
- It is something with which even R.N. Hitchcock, police superintendent of Malabar, agreed. यह कुछ ऐसा था जिससे आर.एन. हिचकॉक, मलबार के पुलिस अधीक्षक, भी सहमत थे।
- As written by N.P. Chekkutty in Mappila and Comrades: A Century of Communist-Muslim Relations (Other Books): “Hitchcock also reveals that Hindus were involved in the rebellion, at least in some parts of the affected areas. ‘The Hindus took an active part only in the extreme south-eastern area of the Valluvanad taluk and in small numbers for a concise time. They were then responsible for much property damage’.”
जैसा कि एन.पी. चेक्कुट्टी ने Mappila and Comrades: A Century of Communist-Muslim Relations (Other Books) में लिखा है: “हिचकॉक यह भी बताते हैं कि हिंदू विद्रोह में शामिल थे, कम से कम प्रभावित क्षेत्रों के कुछ हिस्सों में। ‘हिंदू केवल वल्लुवनाड तालुक के अत्यंत दक्षिण-पूर्वी क्षेत्र में सक्रिय भाग लिया और थोड़े समय के लिए छोटी संख्या में। इसके बाद उन्होंने बहुत से संपत्ति क्षति के लिए जिम्मेदारी ली।”
- In his persuasively argued book, with much of the focus on the post-resistance time in the late 1930s and 40s, Chekkutty also talks of the rebels not harming any substantial section of the local population before going on to document the failure of the Congress to retain local Muslim support after the resistance movement.
अपनी प्रभावशाली पुस्तक में, जिसमें ध्यान मुख्यतः प्रतिरोध के बाद के समय पर था, 1930 के दशक के अंत और 1940 के दशक में, चेक्कुट्टी यह भी बताते हैं कि विद्रोहियों ने स्थानीय आबादी के किसी महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से को नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाया, इसके बाद उन्होंने प्रतिरोध आंदोलन के बाद कांग्रेस की स्थानीय मुस्लिम समर्थन बनाए रखने में विफलता का दस्तावेजीकरण किया।
- It was a vacuum which both the Communist Party of India and the All India Muslim League attempted to fill.
यह एक रिक्त स्थान था जिसे दोनों, भारत की कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी और ऑल इंडिया मुस्लिम लीग, भरने का प्रयास कर रहे थे।

The Khilafat Angle खिलाफत दृष्टिकोण

- Interestingly, against this background of common cause transcending the confines of faith came the pan-Islamist Khilafat movement.
रोचक बात यह है कि, धर्म की सीमाओं को पार करने वाले साझा उद्देश्य की पृष्ठभूमि के खिलाफ आया पैन-इस्लामिस्ट खिलाफत आंदोलन।
- Things became even more ironic as Malabar’s historical tapestry of anti-colonial resistance “had been woven with threads of unity binding Muslims and non-Muslims in a shared ‘jihad’ to safeguard the throne of the Hindu king, the Zamorin of Calicut,” as analysed by Panakkal.
स्थिति और भी विडंबनापूर्ण हो गई क्योंकि मलबार के ऐतिहासिक औपनिवेशिक विरोध का ताना-बाना “मुस्लिम और गैर-मुस्लिमों के बीच एकता के धागों से बुना गया था, एक साझा ‘जिहाद’ में, हिंदू राजा, कालिकट के ज़मोरिन के सिंहासन की रक्षा के लिए,” जैसा कि पनक्कल ने विश्लेषित किया।
- Khilafat, Non-Cooperation, Mappila, with seemingly disparate social elements, all fused to bring about a strong anti-colonial movement.
खिलाफत, गैर-सहयोग आंदोलन, मपिला, जो अलग-अलग सामाजिक तत्व प्रतीत होते थे, सभी ने मिलकर एक मजबूत औपनिवेशिक विरोधी आंदोलन को जन्म दिया।
- Indeed, here both the communities enjoyed a rare camaraderie, and there was a happy collective involvement even in religiously significant events like the nercha and utsavam.



वास्तव में, यहाँ दोनों समुदायों ने दुर्लभ सहयोग भावना का आनंद लिया, और धार्मिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण आयोजनों जैसे नेरचा और उत्सवम में भी सामूहिक भागीदारी रही।

- During the latter, **Muslim families** returned with bags full of **jaggery candies**, much like **Ali Musaliar** used to do for **Amina**, his daughter.
इसके दौरान, **मुस्लिम परिवार गुड़ की मिठाई से भरे बैग** लेकर लौटते, जैसे **अली मुसलियार** अपनी बेटी **आमीना** के लिए किया करते थे।
- Sums up Panakkal: "The experience of **Muslims and Islam in South India** is different from the experience in **North India**, and this is not trivial."
पनक्कल का सारांश: "दक्षिण भारत में मुस्लिम और इस्लाम का अनुभव उत्तर भारत के अनुभव से अलग है, और यह मामूली नहीं है।"

GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations

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18 September 2025

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2. **A judicial nudge following stuck legislative business**
अटके हुए विधायी कार्य के बाद एक न्यायिक प्रोत्साहन
3. **Let Geiger counters, not guesses, shape Iran actions**
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4. **Welfare at the mercy of the machine**
मशीन की दया पर कल्याण
5. **How does SC's order affect Waqf law?**
सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश का वक्फ कानून पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है?
6. **In Nordic dispute over European Union's forest targets, echoes of Greece's crisis**
यूरोपीय संघ के वन लक्ष्यों पर नॉर्डिक विवाद में ग्रीस संकट की गूंज



EVMs to have colour photos of candidates soon, says EC

Panel has revised norms for EVM ballot papers ahead of Bihar polls; serial numbers of candidates will now be displayed more prominently, and their faces will occupy three-fourths of photo space

GS II: Elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Beginning with the Bihar Assembly election, ballot papers on the electronic voting machines will display colour photographs of the candidates, the Election Commission said on Wednesday.

The revised guidelines for EVM ballot papers issued by the EC mandated that the serial numbers of candidates be displayed more prominently.

The guidelines have been revised under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 – pertaining to the design and printing of EVM ballot papers – to enhance their clarity and readability.

The new guidelines say, “Henceforth, photographs of candidates will be printed in colour on the EVM Ballot Paper. The candidate’s face will occupy



New updates: The serial numbers of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals. FILE PHOTO

three-fourths of the photo space for better visibility.”

“The upgraded EVM Ballot Papers will be used in the upcoming elections, starting with Bihar,” the EC added in a statement.

In a note issued to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories, the EC said the photographs of the candidates shall be printed in colour, unless the candidate has provided only black and

white photographs. The photograph printed on the ballot paper will measure 2 cm in breadth and 2.5 cm in height.

The serial numbers of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals. The font will be in bold, and its size will be 30.

For Assembly elections, pink-coloured paper of specified RGB values shall be used.

The note said the names of not more than 15 candidates shall be arranged on one sheet of a ballot paper and NOTA option will be placed after the last name of the panel. If the number of contesting candidates together with the NOTA option is fewer than 16, the space below the panel after this shall be kept blank, the EC said.

Government press

Printing of EVM ballot paper shall be done preferably at a government or semi-government printing press. However, in case a government/semi-government press is not available or does not have the required capacity, private printing press(es) with required capacity can be selected after following due procedure and adequate provision and safety of the process shall be ensured as per the existing instructions, the note said.

EVMs to have colour photos of candidates soon, says EC

ईवीएम पर उम्मीदवारों की रंगीन तस्वीरें जल्द ही होंगी, चुनाव आयोग का बयान

- The panel has revised norms for EVM ballot papers ahead of Bihar polls; serial numbers of candidates will now be displayed more prominently, and their faces will occupy three-fourths of photo space.
बिहार चुनाव से पहले ईवीएम बैलेट पेपर के नियमों में संशोधन किया गया है; उम्मीदवारों के क्रम संख्या अब अधिक प्रमुखता से दिखाई देंगे और उनके चेहरे तस्वीर के तीन-चौथाई हिस्से को घेरेंगे।
- Beginning with the Bihar Assembly election, ballot papers on the electronic voting machines will display colour photographs of the candidates, the Election Commission



said on Wednesday.

बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव से शुरू होकर, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वोटिंग मशीनों पर बैलेट पेपर पर उम्मीदवारों की रंगीन तस्वीरें दिखाई देंगी, यह चुनाव आयोग ने बुधवार को कहा।

- The revised guidelines for **EVM ballot papers** issued by the EC mandated that the **serial numbers of candidates be displayed more prominently**.
चुनाव आयोग द्वारा जारी ईवीएम बैलेट पेपर के संशोधित दिशानिर्देशों में यह अनिवार्य किया गया है कि उम्मीदवारों के क्रम संख्या अधिक प्रमुखता से दिखाई जाएं।
- The guidelines have been revised under **Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 — pertaining to the design and printing of EVM ballot papers** — to enhance their clarity and readability.
दिशानिर्देशों में संशोधन चुनाव आचार नियम, 1961 के नियम 49बी के तहत किया गया है — जो ईवीएम बैलेट पेपर के डिज़ाइन और प्रिंटिंग से संबंधित है — ताकि उनकी स्पष्टता और पठनीयता बढ़ सके।
- The new guidelines say, "Henceforth, **photographs of candidates will be printed in colour on the EVM Ballot Paper**. The **candidate's face will occupy three-fourths of the photo space for better visibility**."
नए दिशानिर्देश कहते हैं, "अब से उम्मीदवारों की तस्वीरें ईवीएम बैलेट पेपर पर रंगीन मुद्रित की जाएंगी। उम्मीदवार का चेहरा बेहतर दृश्यता के लिए तस्वीर के तीन-चौथाई हिस्से को घेरेगा।"
- "The **upgraded EVM Ballot Papers will be used in the upcoming elections, starting with Bihar**," the EC added in a statement.
"अपग्रेड किए गए ईवीएम बैलेट पेपर का उपयोग आगामी चुनावों में किया जाएगा, जिसकी शुरुआत बिहार से होगी," चुनाव आयोग ने एक बयान में कहा।
- In a note issued to the **Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories**, the EC said the **photographs of the candidates shall be printed in colour, unless the candidate has provided only black and white photographs**.
सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारियों को जारी एक नोट में चुनाव आयोग ने कहा कि उम्मीदवारों की तस्वीरें रंगीन मुद्रित की जाएंगी, जब तक कि उम्मीदवार ने केवल श्वेत-श्याम तस्वीरें न दी हों।
- The **photograph printed on the ballot paper will measure 2 cm in breadth and 2.5 cm in height**.
बैलेट पेपर पर मुद्रित तस्वीर की चौड़ाई 2 सेंटीमीटर और ऊंचाई 2.5 सेंटीमीटर होगी।
- The **serial numbers of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals**.
उम्मीदवारों/नोटा की क्रम संख्या भारतीय अंकों के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्वरूप में मुद्रित की जाएगी।
- The font will be in **bold**, and its size will be **30**.
फ्रॉन्ट बोल्ड होगा, और इसका आकार 30 होगा।
- For **Assembly elections, pink-coloured paper of specified RGB values shall be used**.
विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए, निर्दिष्ट RGB मानों वाले गुलाबी रंग के कागज का उपयोग किया जाएगा।
- The note said the **names of not more than 15 candidates shall be arranged on one sheet of a ballot paper and NOTA option will be placed after the last name of the panel**.
नोट में कहा गया है कि एक बैलेट पेपर शीट पर 15 से अधिक उम्मीदवारों के नाम नहीं होंगे और नोटा विकल्प पैनल के अंतिम नाम के बाद रखा जाएगा।
- If the number of contesting candidates together with the **NOTA option** is fewer than **16**, the space below the panel after this shall be kept **blank**, the EC said.
यदि नोटा विकल्प सहित कुल उम्मीदवारों की संख्या 16 से कम है, तो इसके बाद पैनल के नीचे का स्थान खाली रखा जाएगा, चुनाव आयोग ने कहा।

Government press

सरकारी प्रेस

- Printing of **EVM ballot paper** shall be done preferably at a **government or semi-government printing press**.
ईवीएम बैलेट पेपर की प्रिंटिंग प्राथमिकता से सरकारी या अर्ध-सरकारी प्रिंटिंग प्रेस में की जाएगी।
- However, in case a **government/semi-government press** is not available or does not have the required capacity, **private printing press(es)** with required capacity can be selected after following due procedure and adequate provision and safety of the process shall be ensured as per the existing instructions, the note said.



हालांकि, यदि सरकारी/अर्ध-सरकारी प्रेस उपलब्ध नहीं है या आवश्यक क्षमता नहीं रखता है, तो आवश्यक क्षमता वाले निजी प्रिंटिंग प्रेस का चयन किया जा सकता है, उचित प्रक्रिया का पालन करने के बाद और मौजूदा निर्देशों के अनुसार पर्याप्त प्रावधान और प्रक्रिया की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जाएगी, नोट में कहा गया।

A judicial nudge following stuck legislative business

GS II: Governor & State Legislature

The Supreme Court of India has heard arguments on the Presidential Reference in respect of the Governor's powers under Article 200 pertaining to the assent to Bills passed by the State legislature. Earlier, a two-judge Bench, headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala, had fixed a timeline of three months for the Governor to take a final decision on a Bill submitted to him for assent. The same timeline was made applicable to the President of India also.

The time limit fixed by the Court has raised eyebrows in the government as well in the media. The general refrain from a section of the media was that the Court cannot direct the Governor or the President, who are high constitutional authorities, to act within a specified time when the Constitution does not have any such time frame. The government had also taken this line of argument in the Court.

Reiteration of a recognised principle

Article 200 of the Constitution has four options for the Governor when a Bill is presented to him after being passed by the State legislature. These options are to assent to the Bill; to withhold assent; return the Bill to the Assembly with a request to reconsider the Bill as a whole or certain clauses, or reserve it for the consideration of the President.

A very important question which arose in the context of the Governor's role in dealing with a Bill after it is passed by the legislature is whether the Governor has any discretion in the exercise of any of the options mentioned above. Under Article 163, the Governor is required to exercise his functions only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers except in matters specified by or under the Constitution. The Court has, in cases from *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974), to *Nabam Rebia* (2016), made it clear that the Governor cannot perform any of his executive functions except on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. The Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission too reiterated this well-recognised constitutional principle.

The point that has been emphasised in all the judgments of the Court and the judicial commissions is that the Governor is just a constitutional head and that the real executive power of the state is vested in the elected government. Therefore, the Governor cannot act independently.

So, the question of crucial importance in this context is whether the Governor, while exercising any of the options under Article 200, can act in his discretion. The answer to this question will become clear when we take a close look at the



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is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

Government of India Act, 1935. Section 75 of this Act is substantially the same as Article 200. Section 75 uses the words "the governor in his discretion" which means that giving assent or withholding it or sending the Bill back to the legislature or reserving it for the consideration of the Governor General is done by the Governor in his discretion.

This Section has been virtually reproduced in Article 200 but omits the words "in his discretion". This would show that the Constitution-makers wanted the Governor to exercise the power under Article 200 only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

The issue of 'discretion'

The question of discretion of the Governor under Article 200 is one that has been dealt with by the Court in a number of cases. Surprisingly, the Court, in *Shamsher Singh*, discovered a discretionary power in the Governor under Article 200. It held that he must exercise it to the best of his judgement and should pursue a course which is not detrimental to the state.

But the Court, in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr.* (2025), did not accept the idea of a Governor exercising his discretion in withholding assent or reserving the Bill for the consideration of the President. It says, "if the power to withhold assent to Bills or to reserve them for the consideration of the President is construed as falling within the exclusive discretionary domain of the governor who would be free to decide a course of action notwithstanding the aid and advice of the council of ministers it would have the potential of turning him into a super constitutional figure having the power to bring to a complete halt the operation of the legislative machinery in the state. The governor cannot be vested with such power..."

The Sarkaria Commission, while granting that, normally, in the discharge of the functions under Article 200, the Governor must abide by the advice of his Council of Ministers, said that in rare and exceptional cases, he may act in the exercise of his discretion especially when the provisions of the Bill are patently unconstitutional.

While divergence of opinion exists in Indian judicial decisions, according to D.D. Basu, the renowned constitutional authority, in the United Kingdom, the sovereign has no power to withhold a Bill without the advice of the Council of Ministers. The deliberate omission of the word 'discretion' in Article 200 of the Constitution of India compels the conclusion that this Article does not permit discretion of any kind by the Governor while dealing with a Bill passed by the legislature.

The next question is about the time limit

prescribed by the Court within which the Governor and the President are required to take a final decision on a Bill. From the arguments made on behalf of the Union Government, it is clear that it has strong objections to the time limit. It is true that no time limit has been prescribed by Articles 200 or 201. It is obvious that the Court fixed the time limit because some of the Governors had sat on Bills for years together without exercising any of the options available under Article 200. The question is whether the Constitution permits such a course of action. It does not.

So, is there no remedy available to States whose important Bills go in limbo? When a Governor sits on Bills for years, should not the Union intervene and direct the Governor to act in accordance with the Constitution? Article 355 can be creatively interpreted to mean that the Union Government can intervene to ensure that the government of a State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Thwarting the legislative process by the Governor by sitting on Bills passed by the legislature for years creates a situation where in the government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. Article 355 imposes a duty upon the Union to direct the Governor to perform his constitutional duty under Article 200.

A remedy for what is now a reality

In no case has the Union intervened to direct a Governor to clear the Bills that he sat on for years. That has forced the Supreme Court to fix the time limit now. The Constitution makers could not have visualised such conduct on the part of the Governors. But now that it has become a reality, a remedy has to be found. By fixing the time limit, the Court has smoothened the legislative process.

The judgments in the two recent cases, namely, *State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor* (2023) and *The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr.* are in fact landmark judgments which struck a blow for federalism. Judges interpret the Constitution and clarify the legal ambiguities, and in that process also create new rules. Article 21 was a prisoner of the literal interpretation since 1950 (A.K. Gopalan) till the American doctrine of due process was imported into it and expanded its ambit in *Maneka Gandhi* (1978).

Therefore, it is quite out of place to argue that judges, by interpreting the existing provisions to meet a new situation which posed a serious challenge to the constitutional order, are amending the Constitution. The fallacy in this argument is too obvious to miss.

The top court's move to fix a time limit for a Governor to take a final decision on a Bill must be interpreted as a move to smoothen the legislative process

A judicial nudge following stuck legislative business

अटके हुए विधायी कार्य के बाद एक न्यायिक प्रोत्साहन

Supreme Court Hearing on Presidential Reference under Article 200

अनुच्छेद 200 के अंतर्गत राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की सुनवाई

- The **Supreme Court of India** has heard arguments on the **Presidential Reference** in respect of the **Governor's powers under Article 200** pertaining to the assent to Bills passed by the State legislature.



भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने अनुच्छेद 200 के अंतर्गत राज्य विधानमंडल द्वारा पारित विधेयकों पर सहमति देने से संबंधित राज्यपाल की शक्तियों पर राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ में दलीलें सुनीं।

- Earlier, a **two-judge Bench**, headed by **Justice J.B. Pardiwala**, had fixed a **timeline of three months** for the Governor to take a final decision on a Bill submitted to him for assent. The same timeline was made applicable to the **President of India** also.

पहले, न्यायमूर्ति जे.बी. पारदीवाला की अध्यक्षता वाली दो न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने राज्यपाल के लिए किसी विधेयक पर अंतिम निर्णय लेने के लिए **तीन महीने की समय-सीमा** तय की थी। यही समय-सीमा **भारत के राष्ट्रपति** पर भी लागू की गई।

- The time limit fixed by the Court has raised **eyebrows** in the government as well as in the media. The general refrain from a section of the media was that the **Court cannot direct the Governor or the President, who are high constitutional authorities, to act within a specified time when the Constitution does not have any such time frame.** The **government** had also taken this line of argument in the Court.

न्यायालय द्वारा तय की गई **समय-सीमा** ने सरकार और मीडिया दोनों में **सवाल खड़े किए**। मीडिया के एक वर्ग का कहना था कि जब **संविधान** में ऐसी कोई समय-सीमा नहीं है तो **न्यायालय राज्यपाल या राष्ट्रपति**, जो उच्च संवैधानिक प्राधिकारी हैं, को किसी निश्चित समय में कार्य करने का निर्देश नहीं दे सकता। **सरकार** ने भी अदालत में यही तर्क दिया।

Reiteration of a Recognised Principle मान्यता प्राप्त सिद्धांत की पुनः पुष्टि

- **Article 200** of the Constitution has **four options** for the Governor when a Bill is presented to him after being passed by the State legislature. These options are: **to assent to the Bill; to withhold assent; return the Bill to the Assembly with a request to reconsider the Bill as a whole or certain clauses; or reserve it for the consideration of the President.**

संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 200** राज्यपाल को चार विकल्प देता है जब कोई विधेयक राज्य विधानमंडल द्वारा पारित होकर उनके पास आता है। ये विकल्प हैं: विधेयक को **सहमति देना**; **सहमति रोकना**; विधेयक को विधानसभा में **वापस भेजना** ताकि उसे पूर्ण रूप से या कुछ धाराओं को पुनर्विचार किया जा सके; या उसे **राष्ट्रपति के विचारार्थ सुरक्षित रखना**।

- A very important question which arose in the context of the **Governor's role** is whether the **Governor has any discretion** in exercising the options under Article 200. **Under Article 163, the Governor is required to exercise his functions only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers except in matters specified by or under the Constitution.**

राज्यपाल की भूमिका के संदर्भ में एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह उठा कि क्या **अनुच्छेद 200** के तहत विकल्पों का उपयोग करने में राज्यपाल के पास कोई **विवेकाधिकार** है। **अनुच्छेद 163** के अनुसार, राज्यपाल को केवल **मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह और सहायता** पर अपने कार्य करने चाहिए, सिवाय उन मामलों के जो संविधान द्वारा या उसके अंतर्गत निर्दिष्ट हैं।

- The **Court**, in cases from **Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab (1974)** to **Nabam Rebia (2016)**, made it clear that the **Governor cannot perform any executive functions independently, except on the advice of the Council of Ministers** headed by the Chief Minister. The **Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission** also reiterated this constitutional principle.

न्यायालय ने **शमशेर सिंह बनाम पंजाब राज्य (1974)** से लेकर **नाबम रेबिया (2016)** मामलों तक यह स्पष्ट कर दिया कि **राज्यपाल किसी भी कार्यकारी कार्य स्वतंत्र रूप से नहीं कर सकते**, सिवाय इसके कि वे **मुख्यमंत्री की अध्यक्षता वाली मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह पर कार्य करें**। **सरकारिया आयोग और पुंछी आयोग** ने भी इस संवैधानिक सिद्धांत की पुनः पुष्टि की।

- The point emphasised in all judgments and by the commissions is that the **Governor is just a constitutional head and the real executive power lies with the elected government.** Therefore, the Governor cannot act independently.

सभी निर्णयों और आयोगों में यह जोर दिया गया है कि **राज्यपाल केवल संवैधानिक प्रमुख हैं और वास्तविक कार्यकारी शक्ति निर्वाचित सरकार के पास है**। इसलिए, राज्यपाल स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य नहीं कर सकते।

Discretion under Article 200

अनुच्छेद 200 के अंतर्गत विवेकाधिकार



- A crucial question is whether the **Governor**, while exercising any of the options under Article 200, can act in **his discretion**. The answer becomes clearer by looking at the **Government of India Act, 1935. Section 75** of this Act is substantially the same as Article 200, but it explicitly used the words **“the governor in his discretion.”**
एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि क्या **अनुच्छेद 200** के तहत विकल्पों का उपयोग करते समय **राज्यपाल अपने विवेकाधिकार** से कार्य कर सकते हैं। इसका उत्तर स्पष्ट होता है जब हम **भारत शासन अधिनियम, 1935** को देखते हैं। इस अधिनियम की **धारा 75** मूल रूप से अनुच्छेद 200 जैसी है, लेकिन इसमें स्पष्ट रूप से शब्दों का प्रयोग किया गया था: **“राज्यपाल अपने विवेकाधिकार से।”**
- This meant that **assent, withholding, sending back, or reserving the Bill** was done by the Governor in his discretion under the 1935 Act.
इसका अर्थ था कि **सहमति देना, रोकना, वापस भेजना, या विधेयक को सुरक्षित रखना** 1935 के अधिनियम के अंतर्गत राज्यपाल अपने विवेकाधिकार से करते थे।
- However, in **Article 200**, these words **“in his discretion”** are omitted. This omission shows that the **Constitution-makers** intended the Governor to exercise power under Article 200 **only on the advice of the Council of Ministers**.
जबकि **अनुच्छेद 200** में **“अपने विवेकाधिकार से”** शब्दों को हटा दिया गया। यह हटाया जाना दर्शाता है कि **संविधान निर्माताओं** का इरादा था कि राज्यपाल अनुच्छेद 200 के अंतर्गत शक्ति का उपयोग केवल **मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह** पर करें।

The Issue of ‘Discretion’ ‘विवेकाधिकार’ का मुद्दा

- The question of **discretion of the Governor under Article 200** is one that has been dealt with by the Court in a number of cases. Surprisingly, the Court, in **Shamsher Singh**, discovered a **discretionary power** in the Governor under Article 200. It held that he must exercise it to the best of his judgement and should pursue a course which is not detrimental to the state.
अनुच्छेद 200 के अंतर्गत **राज्यपाल के विवेकाधिकार** का प्रश्न कई मामलों में न्यायालय द्वारा उठाया गया है। आश्चर्यजनक रूप से, **शमशेर सिंह** मामले में न्यायालय ने अनुच्छेद 200 में राज्यपाल के लिए **विवेकाधिकार शक्ति** पाई। न्यायालय ने कहा कि राज्यपाल को इसे अपनी सर्वोत्तम समझ के अनुसार प्रयोग करना चाहिए और ऐसा रास्ता अपनाना चाहिए जो राज्य के लिए हानिकारक न हो।
- But the Court, in **The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr. (2025)**, did not accept the idea of a Governor exercising his discretion in withholding assent or reserving the Bill for the consideration of the President. It said that **giving such powers would make the Governor a super constitutional figure capable of halting the legislative machinery**.
लेकिन **तमिलनाडु राज्य बनाम तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल एवं अन्य (2025)** में न्यायालय ने यह विचार स्वीकार नहीं किया कि राज्यपाल अपने विवेक से सहमति रोक सकते हैं या विधेयक को राष्ट्रपति के विचारार्थ सुरक्षित रख सकते हैं। न्यायालय ने कहा कि ऐसे अधिकार देने से राज्यपाल एक **सुपर संवैधानिक व्यक्ति** बन जाएंगे, जो **विधायी तंत्र** को पूरी तरह रोकने में सक्षम होंगे।
- The **Sarkaria Commission**, while stating that normally the Governor must abide by the **aid and advice of his Council of Ministers**, noted that in **rare and exceptional cases**, he may act in his discretion, especially when a Bill’s provisions are **patently unconstitutional**.
सरकारिया आयोग ने कहा कि सामान्यतः राज्यपाल को अपनी **मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह और सहायता** का पालन करना चाहिए, लेकिन **दुर्लभ और असाधारण मामलों** में वह अपने विवेक से कार्य कर सकते हैं, विशेषकर जब विधेयक के प्रावधान **स्पष्ट रूप से असंवैधानिक** हों।
- While **divergence of opinion** exists in Indian judicial decisions, **D.D. Basu**, the renowned constitutional authority, pointed out that in the **United Kingdom**, the sovereign has **no power to withhold a Bill without the advice of the Council of Ministers**. The **deliberate omission** of the word **‘discretion’** in Article 200 compels the conclusion that this Article does not permit **any kind of discretion** by the Governor.
भारतीय न्यायिक निर्णयों में भले ही **मतभेद** हो, लेकिन प्रसिद्ध संवैधानिक प्राधिकरण **डी.डी. बसु** ने इंगित किया कि **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** में सम्राट के पास मंत्रिपरिषद की सलाह के बिना किसी विधेयक को रोकने की **कोई शक्ति** नहीं है। अनुच्छेद 200 में **‘विवेकाधिकार’** शब्द का **जानबूझकर हटाया जाना** इस निष्कर्ष को मजबूती देता है कि यह अनुच्छेद राज्यपाल को **किसी भी प्रकार का विवेकाधिकार** नहीं देता।



Time Limit Issue समय-सीमा का मुद्दा

- The next question is about the **time limit prescribed by the Court** within which the Governor and the President must take a final decision on a Bill. The **Union Government** strongly objected to this, as **Articles 200 and 201** do not prescribe any such limit. The Court imposed it because some **Governors had sat on Bills for years** without acting. The Constitution does not permit such inaction.

अगला प्रश्न न्यायालय द्वारा निर्धारित समय-सीमा से संबंधित है, जिसके भीतर राज्यपाल और राष्ट्रपति को किसी विधेयक पर अंतिम निर्णय लेना होगा। **केंद्र सरकार** ने इसका कड़ा विरोध किया क्योंकि **अनुच्छेद 200 और 201** में ऐसी कोई समय-सीमा नहीं है। लेकिन न्यायालय ने यह सीमा इसलिए लगाई क्योंकि कुछ **राज्यपाल वर्षों तक विधेयकों पर बैठे रहे** और कोई कदम नहीं उठाया। संविधान ऐसी निष्क्रियता की अनुमति नहीं देता।

- So, is there no **remedy** for States whose Bills remain in limbo? If a Governor delays for years, should not the **Union** intervene? **Article 355** can be interpreted to allow the Union to ensure that State governments function in accordance with the Constitution. A Governor sitting on Bills for years disrupts constitutional governance, and **Article 355** imposes a duty on the Union to direct the Governor to perform his constitutional duty under **Article 200**.

तो क्या उन राज्यों के लिए कोई **उपाय** नहीं है जिनके विधेयक लंबित पड़े रहते हैं? यदि राज्यपाल वर्षों तक देरी करते हैं, तो क्या **केंद्र** को हस्तक्षेप नहीं करना चाहिए? **अनुच्छेद 355** की व्याख्या इस रूप में की जा सकती है कि केंद्र यह सुनिश्चित करे कि राज्य सरकारें संविधान के अनुरूप काम करें। राज्यपाल द्वारा विधेयकों को वर्षों तक रोके रखना संवैधानिक शासन को बाधित करता है, और **अनुच्छेद 355** केंद्र पर यह दायित्व डालता है कि वह राज्यपाल को **अनुच्छेद 200** के तहत अपना संवैधानिक कर्तव्य निभाने का निर्देश दे।

A Remedy for What is Now a Reality अब वास्तविकता बन चुके परिदृश्य का समाधान

- The **Union has never intervened** to direct a Governor to clear long-pending Bills. This compelled the **Supreme Court** to fix a time limit. The **Constitution makers** could not have imagined such behaviour by Governors, but since it is now a reality, a **remedy** is needed. By fixing a time limit, the Court has **smoothened the legislative process**.

केंद्र ने कभी हस्तक्षेप नहीं किया कि राज्यपाल वर्षों से लंबित विधेयकों को मंजूरी दें। इसने **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** को समय-सीमा तय करने के लिए मजबूर किया। **संविधान निर्माता** राज्यपालों के ऐसे आचरण की कल्पना नहीं कर सकते थे, लेकिन अब जब यह वास्तविकता बन गया है तो एक **समाधान** आवश्यक है। समय-सीमा तय करके न्यायालय ने **विधायी प्रक्रिया को सुचारु** कर दिया है।

- The judgments in **State of Punjab vs Principal Secretary to the Governor (2023)** and **The State of Tamil Nadu vs The Governor Of Tamilnadu and Anr. (2025)** are **landmark judgments** that strengthened **federalism**. Judges, by interpreting the Constitution, clarify ambiguities and create new rules. For example, **Article 21** was narrowly interpreted in **A.K. Gopalan (1950)** until the **due process doctrine** was adopted in **Maneka Gandhi (1978)**, expanding its scope.

पंजाब राज्य बनाम राज्यपाल के प्रधान सचिव (2023) और **तमिलनाडु राज्य बनाम तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल एवं अन्य (2025)** के निर्णय **ऐतिहासिक निर्णय** हैं जिन्होंने **संघवाद** को मजबूत किया। न्यायाधीश संविधान की व्याख्या करके अस्पष्टताओं को स्पष्ट करते हैं और नए नियम बनाते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, **अनुच्छेद 21** को **ए.के. गोपालन (1950)** में संकीर्ण रूप से व्याख्यायित किया गया था, लेकिन **मेनका गांधी (1978)** में **ड्यू प्रोसेस सिद्धांत** अपनाए जाने के बाद इसका दायरा विस्तृत हुआ।

- Therefore, it is incorrect to argue that judges, by interpreting provisions to meet new constitutional challenges, are **amending the Constitution**. This argument is a **fallacy**. इसलिए यह तर्क गलत है कि न्यायाधीश नई संवैधानिक चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए प्रावधानों की व्याख्या करके संविधान में **संशोधन** कर रहे हैं। यह तर्क एक **भ्रम** है।



Let Geiger counters, not guesses, shape Iran actions

GS II, West Asia

A new nuclear crisis is taking shape. After the United States's strikes on Iran's underground nuclear site at Fordow, in June 2025, Britain, France, and Germany (E3), on August 28, triggered the "snapback" clause of the 2015 nuclear deal citing violations by Tehran. The world has not much time to choose between diplomacy and escalation.

If this window closes without agreement, the United Nations will restore earlier measures that call for a halt to enrichment, tighten controls on arms transfers, restrict finance and shipping, and re-designate individuals linked to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.

The stakes are global. Iran rejects the move as unlawful. Washington sees it as a test of non-proliferation. Europe views multilateral commitments on trial. Russia and China seek delay and leverage. Israel and the Gulf states weigh warning times and war risks. Oil importers watch prices. Shipping companies reassess insurance. Banks calculate exposure. For India, the anxieties are sharper still. Its extended neighbourhood must remain stable, oil must keep flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, and the safety of eight million Indian citizens in West Asia must be ensured.

The vacuum of facts

These concerns are magnified by the absence of verified information. Since the strikes on Iranian facilities, no one has walked the rubble with a dosimeter or tested a coolant line. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) staff left Iran after its Parliament passed legislation halting cooperation without approval from the Supreme National Security Council. Rumour has replaced measurement. Every capital has drawn



Syed Akbaruddin

was an international civil servant at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from 2006 to 2011

India can take the lead in ensuring technical IAEA access to Iran's nuclear programme as it will anchor negotiations to verifiable data

its own conclusions while global attention shifted elsewhere.

IAEA access is not a formality but the hinge of diplomacy. Verification replaces speculation with facts, sets a baseline on Iranian stockpiles, and anchors negotiations to data, not fears. Regular IAEA updates on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, under Russian control, calmed jittery markets. A comparable presence in Iran could steady expectations and reduce volatility. If verification is framed as a sovereign choice, rather than a concession, it would strengthen Iran's claim that the programme is civilian while upholding the non-proliferation bargain.

Yet, Tehran's reservations are not unfounded. Iranian officials argue that sovereignty and security outweigh treaty obligations. They fear inspectors may, even unintentionally, enable targeting of sensitive sites. This is not paranoia. Strikes by Israel and the U.S. in the past closely followed IAEA disclosures. Such episodes have hardened parliamentary resistance. There is also the calculus of leverage. Revealing what survives of the programme could weaken Iran's hand in bargaining with Washington.

Since the E3 triggered its snapback, some Iranian legislators have urged withdrawal from the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. That would strip the IAEA of legal authority to inspect Iranian sites. The crisis would then enter uncharted territory with sanctions hardening and the military option returning to the fore.

Where India fits in

India cannot stand aside. As a long-standing member of the IAEA Board, with ties across divides, it is well placed to assist. As a part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India,

at the Tianjin summit, has joined other nations in condemning the military strikes by Israel and the U.S. against Iran.

Within the SCO and BRICS – both of which include Iran – India can support a diplomatic call to restore technical IAEA access in a form that protects operational details while ensuring transparency. If framed as a sovereign choice by Tehran, and backed by the Global South, it may gain Iranian approval. India can also contribute technical capacity. Its IAEA-certified Tarapur facility could handle sample analysis under safeguards, showing that responsible stakeholders can provide practical support in moments of crisis. These contributions would not make headlines, but they could shift the balance toward diplomacy at a time when the risk of escalation is high.

A closing window

The window for diplomacy is narrowing fast. By allowing IAEA inspectors into Bushehr to monitor the refuelling of the nuclear power plant last month, Iran has offered a small opening. Also, last week, on September 9, 2025, the IAEA and Iran signed an agreement in Cairo, Egypt. If this extends to bombed sites, the E3 may respond by pausing the snapback. Such choices could shift the momentum back to diplomacy. The alternative is grim – sanctions, standoffs, and a cycle of strike and counterstrike.

For India, the choice is clear. Backing verification protects its interests in West Asia, its citizens abroad, and its energy security. It also marks India as a responsible global power. The way forward is simple. It is time to let Geiger counters, and not guesses, decide Iran's nuclear programme.

Let Geiger counters, not guesses, shape Iran actions

गाइजर काउंटर को, न कि अनुमानों को, ईरान की कार्रवाइयों को आकार देना चाहिए

New Nuclear Crisis

नया परमाणु संकट

- A new nuclear crisis is taking shape. After the **United States's strikes** on Iran's underground nuclear site at **Fordow, in June 2025, Britain, France, and Germany (E3)**, on **August 28**, triggered the **"snapback" clause** of the **2015 nuclear deal** citing violations by **Tehran**. The world has not much time to choose between diplomacy and escalation. एक नया परमाणु संकट आकार ले रहा है। जून 2025 में ईरान के भूमिगत परमाणु स्थल **फोर्डो** पर संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के हमलों के बाद, **ब्रिटेन, फ्रांस और जर्मनी (E3)** ने **28 अगस्त** को **2015 के परमाणु समझौते** की **"स्नैपबैक"** धारा सक्रिय की, तेहरान द्वारा उल्लंघनों का हवाला देते हुए। दुनिया के पास **कूटनीति** और **तनाव बढ़ाने** के बीच चुनने के लिए ज्यादा समय नहीं है।
- If this window closes without agreement, the **United Nations will restore earlier measures that call for a halt to enrichment, tighten controls on arms transfers, restrict finance and shipping, and re-designate individuals linked to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes**. यदि यह अवसर बिना समझौते के बंद हो जाता है, तो **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** पहले की व्यवस्थाएँ बहाल करेगा, जिनमें **संवर्धन को रोकना, हथियार हस्तांतरण पर कड़े नियंत्रण, वित्त और शिपिंग पर प्रतिबंध, और ईरान के परमाणु व मिसाइल कार्यक्रम से जुड़े व्यक्तियों को पुनः चिह्नित करना** शामिल होगा।
- The stakes are global. **Iran rejects the move as unlawful. Washington sees it as a test of non-proliferation. Europe views multilateral commitments on trial. Russia and China seek delay and leverage. Israel and the Gulf states weigh warning times and war risks. Oil**



importers watch prices. Shipping companies reassess insurance. Banks calculate exposure. For India, the anxieties are sharper still. Its extended neighbourhood must remain stable, oil must keep flowing through the **Strait of Hormuz**, and the safety of **eight million Indian citizens** in West Asia must be ensured.

दांव वैश्विक है। ईरान इस कदम को अवैध मानता है। वॉशिंगटन इसे **अप्रसार (non-proliferation)** की परीक्षा मानता है। यूरोप इसे बहुपक्षीय प्रतिबद्धताओं की परीक्षा मानता है। रूस और चीन देरी और लाभ चाहते हैं। इजराइल और खाड़ी देश चेतावनी समय और युद्ध जोखिम को तौलते हैं। तेल आयातक कीमतों को देखते हैं। शिपिंग कंपनियाँ बीमा का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करती हैं। बैंक जोखिम की गणना करते हैं। भारत के लिए चिंताएँ और भी गहरी हैं। इसका विस्तारित पड़ोस स्थिर रहना चाहिए, तेल **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** से लगातार बहता रहना चाहिए, और पश्चिम एशिया में **80 लाख भारतीय नागरिकों** की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करनी होगी।

The Vacuum of Facts तथ्यों का अभाव

- These concerns are magnified by the absence of **verified information**. Since the strikes on Iranian facilities, no one has walked the rubble with a **dosimeter** or tested a **coolant line**. The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** staff left Iran after its Parliament passed legislation halting cooperation without approval from the **Supreme National Security Council**. Rumour has replaced measurement. Every capital has drawn its own conclusions while global attention shifted elsewhere.
इन चिंताओं को **सत्यापित जानकारी** के अभाव ने और बढ़ा दिया है। ईरानी सुविधाओं पर हमलों के बाद से, किसी ने भी **डोसीमीटर** के साथ मलबे की जाँच नहीं की या **कूलेंट लाइन** की जाँच नहीं की। **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA)** के कर्मचारी ईरान छोड़ गए जब उसकी संसद ने **सर्वोच्च राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद** की मंजूरी के बिना सहयोग रोकने का कानून पारित किया। अब माप के स्थान पर अफवाहों ने जगह ले ली है। हर राजधानी ने अपनी-अपनी निष्कर्ष निकाले हैं जबकि वैश्विक ध्यान कहीं और चला गया है।
- **IAEA access** is not a formality but the hinge of diplomacy. Verification replaces speculation with facts, sets a **baseline on Iranian stockpiles**, and anchors negotiations to **data, not fears**. Regular IAEA updates on **Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant**, under Russian control, calmed jittery markets. A comparable presence in Iran could steady expectations and reduce volatility. If verification is framed as a **sovereign choice**, rather than a concession, it would strengthen Iran's claim that the programme is civilian while upholding the **non-proliferation bargain**.
IAEA की पहुँच औपचारिकता नहीं बल्कि कूटनीति का आधार है। सत्यापन, अटकलों को तथ्यों से बदलता है, **ईरानी भंडार** पर एक **आधाररेखा** तय करता है और वार्ताओं को **भय नहीं बल्कि आँकड़ों** पर टिकाता है। **रूसी नियंत्रण में यूक्रेन के ज़ापोरिज़्झिया परमाणु संयंत्र** पर नियमित IAEA अपडेट्स ने चिंतित बाजारों को शांत किया। ईरान में इसी तरह की उपस्थिति अपेक्षाओं को स्थिर कर सकती है और अस्थिरता को कम कर सकती है। यदि सत्यापन को **संप्रभु विकल्प** के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जाए न कि रियायत के रूप में, तो यह ईरान के इस दावे को मजबूत करेगा कि उसका कार्यक्रम नागरिक है और साथ ही **अप्रसार समझौते** को भी बनाए रखेगा।
- Yet, **Tehran's reservations** are not unfounded. Iranian officials argue that **sovereignty and security** outweigh treaty obligations. They fear inspectors may, even unintentionally, enable targeting of sensitive sites. This is not paranoia. Strikes by **Israel and the U.S.** in the past closely followed IAEA disclosures. Such episodes have hardened **parliamentary resistance**. There is also the calculus of **leverage**. Revealing what survives of the programme could weaken Iran's hand in bargaining with Washington.
फिर भी, **तेहरान की आपत्तियाँ** निराधार नहीं हैं। ईरानी अधिकारी तर्क देते हैं कि **संप्रभुता और सुरक्षा** संधि दायित्वों से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हैं। उन्हें डर है कि निरीक्षक अनजाने में भी संवेदनशील स्थलों को लक्ष्य बनाने में मदद कर सकते हैं। यह कोई भ्रम नहीं है। अतीत में **इजराइल और अमेरिका** द्वारा किए गए हमले अक्सर IAEA के खुलासों के तुरंत बाद हुए। ऐसे घटनाक्रमों ने **संसदीय प्रतिरोध** को और मजबूत कर दिया है। इसमें **बातचीत का लाभ** भी शामिल है। कार्यक्रम के शेष हिस्से का खुलासा करना वॉशिंगटन के साथ मोलभाव में ईरान की स्थिति को कमजोर कर सकता है।
- Since the **E3 triggered its snapback**, some Iranian legislators have urged withdrawal from the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**. That would strip the **IAEA** of legal authority to inspect Iranian sites. The crisis would then enter **uncharted territory** with sanctions hardening and the **military option** returning to the fore.
जब से **E3 ने सैपबैक सक्रिय किया**, कुछ ईरानी विधायकों ने **परमाणु अप्रसार संधि (NPT)** से हटने का



आग्रह किया है। इससे IAEA ईरानी स्थलों का निरीक्षण करने के कानूनी अधिकार से वंचित हो जाएगा। तब संकट अज्ञात क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करेगा, जहाँ प्रतिबंध और कड़े होंगे और सैन्य विकल्प फिर से सामने आ जाएगा।

Where India Fits भारत कहाँ फिट बैठता है

- India cannot stand aside. As a long-standing member of the IAEA Board, with ties across divides, it is well placed to assist. As a part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India, at the Tianjin summit, has joined other nations in condemning the military strikes by Israel and the U.S. against Iran.

भारत किनारे नहीं खड़ा रह सकता। IAEA बोर्ड का एक लंबे समय से सदस्य होने के नाते, जिसके विभाजनों के पार संबंध हैं, यह सहायता करने की अच्छी स्थिति में है। शंघाई सहयोग संगठन (SCO) का हिस्सा होने के नाते, भारत ने तियानजिन शिखर सम्मेलन में अन्य देशों के साथ मिलकर ईरान के खिलाफ इजराइल और अमेरिका के सैन्य हमलों की निंदा की।

- Within the SCO and BRICS — both of which include Iran — India can support a diplomatic call to restore technical IAEA access in a form that protects operational details while ensuring transparency. If framed as a sovereign choice by Tehran, and backed by the Global South, it may gain Iranian approval.

SCO और BRICS के भीतर — जिनमें दोनों में ईरान शामिल है — भारत तकनीकी IAEA पहुँच बहाल करने के लिए एक कूटनीतिक अपील का समर्थन कर सकता है, जो परिचालन विवरण की रक्षा करते हुए पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करे। यदि इसे तेहरान द्वारा संप्रभु विकल्प के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जाए, और ग्लोबल साउथ का समर्थन मिले, तो यह ईरानी स्वीकृति प्राप्त कर सकता है।

- India can also contribute technical capacity. Its IAEA-certified Tarapur facility could handle sample analysis under safeguards, showing that responsible stakeholders can provide practical support in moments of crisis. These contributions would not make headlines, but they could shift the balance toward diplomacy at a time when the risk of escalation is high. भारत तकनीकी क्षमता भी योगदान कर सकता है। इसकी IAEA-प्रमाणित तारापुर सुविधा सुरक्षा उपायों के तहत नमूनों का विश्लेषण संभाल सकती है, यह दिखाते हुए कि जिम्मेदार हितधारक संकट के समय व्यावहारिक समर्थन प्रदान कर सकते हैं। ये योगदान सुर्खियाँ नहीं बनाएँगे, लेकिन वे कूटनीति की ओर संतुलन को झुका सकते हैं जब तनाव बढ़ने का खतरा अधिक है।

A Closing Window बंद होती खिड़की

- The window for diplomacy is narrowing fast. By allowing IAEA inspectors into Bushehr to monitor the refuelling of the nuclear power plant last month, Iran has offered a small opening. Also, last week, on September 9, 2025, the IAEA and Iran signed an agreement in Cairo, Egypt. If this extends to bombed sites, the E3 may respond by pausing the snapback. Such choices could shift the momentum back to diplomacy. The alternative is grim — sanctions, standoffs, and a cycle of strike and counterstrike.

कूटनीति के लिए खिड़की तेजी से संकरी हो रही है। पिछले महीने IAEA निरीक्षकों को बुशेहर में परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र के ईंधन भरने की निगरानी की अनुमति देकर, ईरान ने एक छोटा अवसर प्रदान किया। साथ ही, पिछले सप्ताह 9 सितंबर 2025 को, IAEA और ईरान ने काहिरा, मिस्र में एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। यदि यह बमबारी स्थलों तक विस्तारित होता है, तो E3 सैन्यिकों को रोककर प्रतिक्रिया दे सकता है। ऐसे विकल्प गति को फिर से कूटनीति की ओर मोड़ सकते हैं। विकल्प गंभीर है — प्रतिबंध, गतिरोध, और हमले-प्रतिउत्तर चक्र।

- For India, the choice is clear. Backing verification protects its interests in West Asia, its citizens abroad, and its energy security. It also marks India as a responsible global power. The way forward is simple. It is time to let Geiger counters, and not guesses, decide Iran's nuclear programme.

भारत के लिए, विकल्प स्पष्ट है। सत्यापन का समर्थन करना इसके पश्चिम एशिया में हितों, विदेशों में उसके नागरिकों और उसकी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा की रक्षा करता है। यह भारत को एक जिम्मेदार वैश्विक शक्ति के रूप में भी चिह्नित करता है। आगे का रास्ता सरल है। अब समय आ गया है कि गाइगर काउंटर, न कि अनुमान, ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम का फैसला करें।



Welfare at the mercy of the machine

GS II: Govt Scheme

In American novelist, Kurt Vonnegut's novel, *Player Piano*, the author imagines a society where human labour is displaced by machines. Published in 1952, the novel shows how high levels of automation create an extremely polarised society with engineers running the machines on one side and the working class at the mercy of machines. In the novel, Finnerty, a brilliant engineer, upon realising how such automation results in dehumanisation, wryly remarks, "If only it weren't for the people, the goddamned people, always getting tangled up in the machinery, earth would be an engineer's paradise." Seven decades later, we are witnessing how welfare delivery in India is turning into a software "engineer's paradise" with a technocratic union government and its digital automation tools on the one side and frontline workers at the mercy of these tools on the other. The latest of these is the mandatory use of Facial Recognition Software (FRS) in Anganwadis.

Anganwadis were first established in 1975 to address child malnutrition as part of the Integrated Child Development Scheme. There are about 14.02 lakh anganwadis in India and every centre is meant to have at least one Anganwadi worker (AWW) and one Anganwadi helper, who are women from the local community. Along with preschool and other services, each Anganwadi is entrusted with providing legally mandated Take Home Rations (THR) for children under three years and for pregnant and lactating women (under the National Food Security Act, 2013).

Aim of verification, hurdles

In 2021, the Union government launched the Poshan Tracker, a centralised application platform, to monitor nutrition initiatives. The AWW has to install the Poshan tracker app on her smartphone and periodically upload the nutritional status of children. The



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app requires regular updates which many AWWs are not equipped to do. From July 1, the THR for pregnant/lactating women will not be given unless these women rights-holders authenticate their faces through the FRS, which is now integrated with this app. To get to this stage, e-KYC has to be first completed, where the woman's Aadhaar and biometric details are entered and verified by OTP. The purpose of these appears to be two-fold. First, that a child or woman is not faking to be somebody else to get food. Second, that a child's food is not stolen by the AWW or anyone. That is, children and AWW are pre-supposed to be guilty of wrongdoing and not pre-supposed to be innocent; which is at odds with the principles of natural justice where one is innocent until proven guilty.

Testimonies of several AWWs underscore the chaos spawned by the use of the FRS. Many phone numbers have changed, the phone is usually not with the woman, and so there are trust issues in sharing an OTP. Even once the e-KYC is completed, there are errors in matching the faces recorded in the software for reasons unclear to the AWWs. Further, the phones of AWWs do not have the capacity to process such heavy data and often hang. Network connectivity is often patchy resulting in large delays. Errors in face matching means that a photograph has to be shot multiple times, causing annoyance to all involved. Even though the AWW personally knows all the women and children concerned, and can vouch that they are authentic, she cannot give them food when the app fails to authenticate as she does not have the power to override the app. Being frontline functionaries means that AWWs are also at the front end of facing the ire of the 'authentic women' who are unable to have their faces authenticated.

Any intervention must be introduced to address the main problems people are facing in

receiving their entitlements. In the context of THR, there are at least five major problems: poor quality of rations; irregular supply of THR; the budget for THR for children which is ₹8 per day a child has not been revised since 2018; corruption in the granting of contracts, and supply by large commercial entities despite orders by the Supreme Court of India since 2004 that the production and distribution should be decentralised and preferably through self-help groups and *mahila* mandals. Women faking pregnancy or children faking to get rations is not one of the core problems here. However, this is what the FRS appears to be solving. Similar to technological interventions in other welfare programmes, the FRS has also been introduced without any consultation with Anganwadi staff. If the government has any reports on massive fraud with "fake beneficiaries" being registered, these must first be made public for scrutiny. The best way to verify people in anganwadis is through community monitoring.

In perspective

Technologies such as the FRS have usually been used in criminal investigations. While there are several concerns in using FRS in such investigations too, using such technologies to identify women and children from vulnerable communities appears to treat them as criminals and not as citizens. In fact, the FRS is banned even in San Francisco, U.S., the Mecca of digital technologies. Early childhood care cannot be held hostage till a software becomes better at recognising mothers. Extending Vonnegut's caution, women and children should not become laboratories in an "engineer's paradise". After all, what is at stake is a choice between authenticating and the authentic, between dehumanising and dignity, and between fracturing and fraternity.

The views expressed are personal

Rations in Anganwadis should not depend on Face Recognition Software



Welfare at the mercy of the machine मशीन की दया पर कल्याण

- In American novelist **Kurt Vonnegut's** novel, *Player Piano*, the author imagines a society where human labour is displaced by **machines**. Published in **1952**, the novel shows how high levels of **automation** create an extremely **polarised society** with **engineers** running the machines on one side and the working class at the mercy of machines.
अमेरिकी लेखक **कर्ट वॉनेगट** के उपन्यास *Player Piano* में लेखक एक ऐसी समाज की कल्पना करते हैं जहाँ मानव श्रम को **मशीनों** द्वारा विस्थापित कर दिया गया है। **1952** में प्रकाशित, यह उपन्यास दिखाता है कि उच्च स्तर की **ऑटोमेशन** कैसे अत्यधिक **ध्रुवीकृत समाज** बनाती है, जिसमें एक ओर **इंजीनियर** मशीनें चलाते हैं और दूसरी ओर कार्यकारी वर्ग मशीनों के अधीन होता है।
- In the novel, **Finnerty**, a brilliant engineer, upon realising how such automation results in **dehumanisation**, wryly remarks, "If only it weren't for the people, the goddamned people, always getting tangled up in the machinery, earth would be an engineer's paradise."
उपन्यास में, एक प्रतिभाशाली इंजीनियर **फिनरटी** यह देखकर कि इस तरह की ऑटोमेशन कैसे **मानवता के हनन** का कारण बनती है, व्यंग्यात्मक रूप से कहते हैं, "काश केवल लोग, ये बकवास लोग, हमेशा मशीनरी में उलझते न रहते, तो पृथ्वी एक इंजीनियर का स्वर्ग होती।"
- Seven decades later, we are witnessing how **welfare delivery in India** is turning into a software "**engineer's paradise**" with a **technocratic union government** and its **digital automation tools** on one side and frontline workers at the mercy of these tools on the other.
सात दशक बाद, हम देख रहे हैं कि भारत में **कल्याण वितरण** कैसे एक सॉफ्टवेयर "**इंजीनियर का स्वर्ग**" बन रहा है, जिसमें एक **तकनीक्रेटिक केंद्रीय सरकार** और उसके **डिजिटल ऑटोमेशन उपकरण** एक ओर हैं और फ्रंटलाइन कार्यकर्ता इन उपकरणों के अधीन दूसरी ओर हैं।

Facial Recognition in Anganwadis आंगनवाड़ियों में चेहरे की पहचान

- Anganwadis were first established in 1975 to address child malnutrition as part of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).** There are about **14.02 lakh Anganwadis** in India and every centre is meant to have at least one **Anganwadi Worker (AWW)** and one **Anganwadi Helper**, who are women from the local community.
आंगनवाड़ी पहली बार **1975** में बच्चों के **कुपोषण** को दूर करने के लिए **इंटीग्रेटेड चाइल्ड डेवलपमेंट स्कीम (ICDS)** के हिस्से के रूप में स्थापित की गई थी। भारत में लगभग **14.02 लाख आंगनवाड़ी** हैं और हर केंद्र में कम से कम एक **आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता (AWW)** और एक **आंगनवाड़ी हेल्पर** होना चाहिए, जो स्थानीय समुदाय की महिलाएं होती हैं।
- Along with preschool and other services, each Anganwadi is entrusted with providing legally mandated Take Home Rations (THR) for children under three years and for pregnant and lactating women under the National Food Security Act, 2013.**
प्रीस्कूल और अन्य सेवाओं के साथ, प्रत्येक आंगनवाड़ी को तीन साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों और **गर्भवती एवं स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं** के लिए कानूनी रूप से निर्धारित **टेक होम राशन (THR)** प्रदान करने का दायित्व सौंपा गया है, जो **नेशनल फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट, 2013** के तहत है।

Aim of Verification, Hurdles सत्यापन का उद्देश्य, बाधाएँ

- In 2021, the Union government launched the Poshan Tracker, a centralised application platform, to monitor nutrition initiatives.** The **AWW** has to install the Poshan Tracker app on her **smartphone** and periodically upload the nutritional status of children. The app requires regular updates which many **AWWs** are not equipped to do.
2021 में, केंद्र सरकार ने **पोषण ट्रैकर** लॉन्च किया, एक केंद्रीकृत एप्लिकेशन प्लेटफॉर्म, ताकि **पोषण पहलों** की निगरानी की जा सके। **AWW** को पोषण ट्रैकर ऐप अपने **स्मार्टफोन** पर इंस्टॉल करना होता है और बच्चों की पोषण स्थिति समय-समय पर अपलोड करनी होती है। ऐप को नियमित अपडेट की आवश्यकता होती है, जो कई **AWWs** करने के योग्य नहीं हैं।



- From July 1, the THR for pregnant/lactating women will not be given unless these women rights-holders authenticate their faces through the Facial Recognition Software (FRS), which is now integrated with this app.
1 जुलाई से, गर्भवती/स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं के लिए THR तभी दिया जाएगा जब ये महिला अधिकारधारक अपने चेहरे की पहचान Facial Recognition Software (FRS) के माध्यम से प्रमाणित करें, जो अब इस ऐप के साथ एकीकृत है।
- To get to this stage, e-KYC has to be first completed, where the woman's Aadhaar and biometric details are entered and verified by OTP.
इस चरण तक पहुँचने के लिए पहले e-KYC पूरी करनी होती है, जिसमें महिला का आधार और बायोमेट्रिक विवरण दर्ज किया जाता है और OTP द्वारा सत्यापित किया जाता है।
- The purpose of these appears to be two-fold: First, that a child or woman is not faking to be somebody else to get food. Second, that a child's food is not stolen by the AWW or anyone. इनका उद्देश्य दोहरा प्रतीत होता है: पहला, यह सुनिश्चित करना कि कोई बच्चा या महिला भोजन पाने के लिए किसी और के रूप में न दिखावा कर रही हो। दूसरा, यह सुनिश्चित करना कि बच्चे का भोजन AWW या किसी और द्वारा न चुराया जाए।
- That is, children and AWW are pre-supposed to be guilty of wrongdoing and not pre-supposed to be innocent; which is at odds with the principles of natural justice where one is innocent until proven guilty.
अर्थात्, बच्चों और AWW को गलत कार्य करने के दोषी माना जाता है और निर्दोष नहीं माना जाता; जो प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांतों के विपरीत है, जहाँ कोई व्यक्ति साबित होने तक निर्दोष माना जाता है।

Testimonies of AWWs on FRS AWWs की FRS पर गवाही

- Testimonies of several AWWs underscore the chaos spawned by the use of the Facial Recognition Software (FRS).
कई AWWs की गवाही इस बात को रेखांकित करती है कि Facial Recognition Software (FRS) के उपयोग से कितना अव्यवस्था उत्पन्न हो रही है।
- Many phone numbers have changed, the phone is usually not with the woman, and so there are trust issues in sharing an OTP.
कई फोन नंबर बदल चुके हैं, फोन आमतौर पर महिला के पास नहीं होता, इसलिए OTP साझा करने में भरोसे की समस्याएँ हैं।
- Even once the e-KYC is completed, there are errors in matching faces recorded in the software for reasons unclear to the AWWs.
भले ही e-KYC पूरा हो जाए, सॉफ्टवेयर में रिकॉर्ड किए गए चेहरे मिलाने में त्रुटियाँ होती हैं, जिनके कारण AWWs के लिए स्पष्ट नहीं हैं।
- Further, the phones of AWWs do not have the capacity to process such heavy data and often hang.
इसके अलावा, AWWs के फोन में इतने भारी डेटा को प्रोसेस करने की क्षमता नहीं है और अक्सर वे हँग हो जाते हैं।
- Network connectivity is often patchy, resulting in large delays.
नेटवर्क कनेक्टिविटी अक्सर अस्थिर रहती है, जिससे बड़ी देरी होती है।
- Errors in face matching means a photograph has to be shot multiple times, causing annoyance to all involved.
चेहरे की पहचान में त्रुटियाँ होने का मतलब है कि फोटो कई बार लेना पड़ता है, जिससे सभी को असंतोष होता है।
- Even though the AWW personally knows all the women and children concerned, and can vouch that they are authentic, she cannot give them food when the app fails to authenticate, as she does not have the power to override the app.
भले ही AWW व्यक्तिगत रूप से सभी महिलाओं और बच्चों को जानती हों और पुष्टि कर सकती हों कि वे असली हैं, ऐप द्वारा सत्यापन विफल होने पर वह उन्हें भोजन नहीं दे सकती क्योंकि उसके पास ऐप को ओवरराइड करने की शक्ति नहीं है।
- Being frontline functionaries means that AWWs are also at the front end of facing the ire of the 'authentic women' who are unable to have their faces authenticated.



फ्रंटलाइन कार्यकर्ता होने का मतलब है कि AWWs भी उन असली महिलाओं के गुस्से का सामना करती हैं जिनका चेहरा सत्यापित नहीं हो पाता।

- Any **intervention** must address the main **problems** people face in receiving their **entitlements**.
किसी भी हस्तक्षेप को उन मुख्य **समस्याओं** को हल करना चाहिए जिनका लोग अपने **अधिकारों** को प्राप्त करने में सामना कर रहे हैं।
- In the context of **THR**, there are at least **five major problems**:
THR के संदर्भ में कम से कम **पाँच प्रमुख समस्याएँ** हैं:
 - **Poor quality of rations**
राशन की खराब **गुणवत्ता**
 - **Irregular supply** of THR
THR की **अनियमित आपूर्ति**
 - The **budget** for THR for children is ₹8 per day per child, not revised since **2018**
बच्चों के लिए **THR** का **बजट** प्रति दिन ₹8 प्रति बच्चा है, जो **2018** से संशोधित नहीं हुआ है
 - **Corruption** in granting **contracts** and **supply** by large commercial entities despite Supreme Court orders since **2004** to **decentralise** production preferably through **self-help groups** and **mahila mandals**
बड़े वाणिज्यिक संस्थाओं द्वारा **ठेका देने और आपूर्ति में भ्रष्टाचार**, भले ही **2004** से सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उत्पादन को **विकेंद्रीकृत** करने और इसे **स्व-सहायता समूहों** और **महिला मंडलों** के माध्यम से करने का आदेश दिया हो
 - Women **faking pregnancy** or children **faking** to get rations is **not one of the core problems**
महिलाओं का **गर्भधारण का दिखावा** या बच्चों का राशन पाने के लिए दिखावा करना **मुख्य समस्याओं में से नहीं है**
- However, this is what the **FRS** appears to be solving.
हालाँकि, यही समस्या है जिसे **FRS** हल करने का प्रतीत होता है।
- Similar to technological interventions in other **welfare programmes**, the **FRS** has been introduced without **consultation** with **Anganwadi staff**.
अन्य **कल्याण कार्यक्रमों** में तकनीकी हस्तक्षेपों की तरह, **FRS** को **आंगनवाड़ी कर्मचारियों** से किसी **परामर्श** के बिना लागू किया गया है।
- If the government has any reports on massive **fraud** with “**fake beneficiaries**”, these must first be made **public** for **scrutiny**.
यदि सरकार के पास “**नकली लाभार्थियों**” के बड़े पैमाने पर **धोखाधड़ी** की कोई रिपोर्ट है, तो इसे पहले **सार्वजनिक** किया जाना चाहिए ताकि **जांच** हो सके।
- The best way to **verify people** in Anganwadis is through **community monitoring**.
आंगनवाड़ियों में लोगों को **सत्यापित** करने का सबसे अच्छा तरीका **सामुदायिक निगरानी** है।

In Perspective परिप्रेक्ष्य में

- Technologies such as **FRS** have usually been used in **criminal investigations**.
FRS जैसी तकनीकों का आमतौर पर उपयोग **आपराधिक जांचों** में किया जाता है।
- Using such technologies to identify women and children from **vulnerable communities** appears to treat them as **criminals** and not as **citizens**.
ऐसी तकनीकों का उपयोग **संवेदनशील समुदायों** की महिलाओं और बच्चों की पहचान करने के लिए उन्हें **अपराधी** और नागरिक के रूप में नहीं, के रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है।
- The **FRS** is banned even in **San Francisco, U.S.**, the **Mecca of digital technologies**.
FRS पर यहाँ तक कि **San Francisco, U.S.**, जो कि **डिजिटल तकनीकों का मेक्का** है, में भी **प्रतिबंध** है।
- Early childhood care cannot be held **hostage** till software becomes better at recognising **mothers**.
प्रारंभिक बाल्यकाल की देखभाल को तब तक **बंधक** नहीं रखा जा सकता जब तक सॉफ्टवेयर **माताओं** को पहचानने में बेहतर न हो जाए।
- Extending Vonnegut’s caution, women and children should not become **laboratories** in an “**engineer’s paradise**”.



Vonnegut की चेतावनी को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, महिलाओं और बच्चों को “इंजीनियर का स्वर्ग” में प्रयोगशालाओं में नहीं बदलना चाहिए।

- After all, what is at stake is a choice between **authenticating** and the **authentic**, between **dehumanising** and **dignity**, and between **fracturing** and **fraternity**.
आखिरकार, जो दांव पर है वह है सत्यापन और असली के बीच चयन, मानवता हनन और गौरव के बीच चयन, और विभाजन और भाईचारे के बीच चयन।

How does SC's order affect Waqf law?

What is the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025? On what grounds was the law challenged? Which provisions did the court uphold, and on which did it impose a stay?
What are the broader implications for minority rights?

ISSUE

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Supreme Court, on September 15, declined to suspend the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, in its entirety, but stayed the operation of certain contentious provisions pending further judicial scrutiny. The interim order, delivered by a Bench led by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih, put on hold the enforcement of provisions that empowered District Collectors to unilaterally decide whether a property claimed as waqf belonged to the government, and the clause stipulating that only a lawful property owner who has been practising Islam for at least five years could create waqf through a formal deed. It also capped the number of non-Muslims who may be appointed to the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards.

What did the challenge entail?

Waqf, under Islamic law, denotes a charitable endowment through which property is dedicated for religious or philanthropic purposes. The 2025 law, notified in April as an amendment to the Waqf Act of 1995 (1995 Act), has been projected by the government as a comprehensive reform aimed at streamlining the administration of these properties. However, critics have described it as an attempt to extend State control over religious institutions.

Earlier this year, multiple petitioners moved the Supreme Court challenging the law on the ground that it infringed upon the Muslim community's fundamental right to manage its own religious affairs under Article 26 of the Constitution. The petitioners included leaders across the political spectrum, such as AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, and RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, alongside parties like the YSR Congress and the Communist Party of India. They argued that the stipulation requiring an individual to be a practising Muslim for at least five years before creating a waqf was arbitrary and curtailed religious freedoms. They also opposed vesting District Collectors with the authority to decide ownership disputes, maintaining that such questions fall within the exclusive domain of civil courts and tribunals. Another ground of challenge was the decision to allow non-Muslims on Waqf boards and councils, which, according to the petitioners, contravened the minority community's right under Article 30 to manage its own institutions.

Defending the law, Solicitor General Tuskar Mehta submitted that the amendments were designed to promote transparency and improve accountability in the management of waqf properties. He argued that establishing a system of centralised registration of properties and vesting preliminary inquiry powers in District Collectors would reduce litigation and ease the load on tribunals. The government also maintained that including non-Muslim members was consistent with principles of inclusivity and oversight, while the five-year practice requirement was aimed at preventing opportunistic claims of conversion.

What are the provisions that have been stayed?

In its 128-page order, the court upheld the presumption of constitutionality of the legislation but cautioned that enforcing it in full, without safeguards, could have “serious consequences” for property rights and weaken minority protections.



Legal watch: Earlier this year, multiple petitioners moved the Supreme Court challenging the law on the ground that it infringed upon the Muslim community's fundamental right to manage its own religious affairs under Article 26 of the Constitution. PTI

It therefore stayed certain contentious provisions, clarifying that these were only interim directions pending final adjudication of the constitutional challenge.

The court suspended Section 3C of the amended law, which authorised District Collectors to inquire into whether property claimed as waqf was in fact government land and to alter revenue records accordingly. It also struck down the clause that automatically divested property of its waqf status once an inquiry commenced, calling it “prima facie arbitrary” and holding that questions of title must be decided by judicial or quasi-judicial bodies. To balance interests, the court clarified that waqf properties will not be dispossessed during the pendency of proceedings, but mutawallis or custodians are barred from creating third-party rights in the disputed properties until the matter is finally decided by Waqf tribunals or High Courts.

The court further stressed that land belonging to Scheduled Tribes or notified as protected monuments under central or State laws cannot be declared waqf, citing constitutional safeguards for tribals and statutory protections for heritage sites. It also noted that the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, allows citizens to continue their customary religious practices even within areas notified as protected monuments.

The 2025 Act amended the definition of “waqf” to restrict its creation to a “person showing or demonstrating that he is practising Islam for at least five years.” The petitioners challenged this stipulation as arbitrary and discriminatory, arguing that it effectively empowered executive officials to adjudicate the religiosity of citizens. The Bench, however, declined to strike down the provision, holding that it was justified as a measure to prevent the potential misuse of waqf properties. “The possibility of any person not belonging to the Muslim community converting to the Islamic religion only to take benefit of the protection of the Waqf Act to defeat creditors and evade the law under the cloak of a plausible dedication cannot be ruled out,” it observed.

At the same time, the court acknowledged that no procedure currently exists to verify whether a person has been practising Islam for five

years. It therefore suspended the operation of the provision until the Centre frames rules under the Act, clarifying that the requirement would take effect only once such a mechanism is in place. The Bench also upheld the related requirement that only property owned by the person creating the waqf may be dedicated, noting that both classical Islamic jurisprudence and principles of charity require a person to donate their own property, not that of others.

The petitioners strongly opposed the 2025 law's provisions permitting non-Muslims to serve on Waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council, arguing that it undermined the community's constitutional right to manage its own religious affairs. Addressing these concerns, the court said that such participation must be limited. It directed that the Central Waqf Council, a 22-member national advisory body under the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs, shall not include more than four non-Muslim members. State Waqf boards, which have 11 members, were similarly capped at three non-Muslim members.

The court also noted that the amended law removes the requirement that the Chief Executive Officer of a Waqf board should be a Muslim. Accordingly, it is suggested that the post should preferably be held by a member of the community, given the religious character of Waqf institutions.

What are the provisions that will continue to operate?

The court allowed certain key provisions to remain in force, relying on the government's argument that they were necessary to curb mismanagement and misuse of Waqf endowments.

The petitioners contested the removal of the long-standing doctrine of “waqf by user,” under which land employed for Muslim religious or charitable purposes over a sustained period could be deemed waqf even without formal registration. They contended that abolishing this principle struck at the very core of waqf jurisprudence.

However, the court declined to suspend the provision's prospective operation, observing that the doctrine had frequently been exploited to claim extensive tracts of government land as

waqf property. “... We are also of the view that if the legislature, in 2025, finds that on account of the concept of ‘waqf by user’, huge government properties have been encroached upon and to stop the said menace, it takes steps for deletion of the said provision, the said amendment, prima facie, cannot be said to be arbitrary”, it said. The judges also recalled a 2022 ruling in which the Supreme Court had struck down a notification of the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board that sought to designate thousands of acres of State-owned land as waqf.

The court also upheld the requirement of registering waqf properties on a central digital portal, reasoning that it is essential for transparency and noting that such registration has been required by law since 1923.

The court refused to stay the application of the Limitation Act, 1963, to waqf properties, noting that the statute applies uniformly to all properties. Under the 1995 Act, waqf land had been exempt, allowing Waqf boards to reclaim encroached property without being bound by the Act's 12-year limitation period.

What are the implications?

Faizan Mustafa, noted academician and Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna, told *The Hindu* that reading too much into the interim order would be premature since the judgment on merits is still awaited. “The court may strike down a few more problematic provisions or even uphold those it has now sustained,” he said.

On the court's refusal to treat the five-year requirement of “practising Islam” as constitutionally suspect, Dr. Mustafa said that the provision effectively empowers state officials to adjudicate an individual's religiosity. “Once a person embraces Islam, they acquire all associated rights, including the right to religious dedication. Whether one accepted the faith yesterday or was born into it makes no difference. Introducing such a caveat into property rights will only result in policing private religious choices,” he cautioned.

However, he welcomed the court's finding that vesting executive officers with the power to decide questions of title contravenes the principle of separation of powers.

THE GIST

▼ The Supreme Court, on September 15, stayed certain contentious provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, including the five-year practising Islam requirement, powers of District Collectors to decide waqf property ownership, and limits on non-Muslim representation in Waqf boards.

▼ Provisions that remain in force include the derecognition of ‘waqf by user’ properties, the requirement to register waqf properties on a central digital portal, and the application of the Limitation Act to waqf lands.

▼ The order aims to protect property rights and minority protections, ensure judicial oversight of disputes, and prevent executive overreach, while the final judgment on the 2025 Act is still pending.



How does SC's order affect Waqf law?

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश का वक्फ़ कानून पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है?

Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025

वक्फ़ (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2025

- The **Supreme Court**, on **September 15**, declined to **suspend the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025** in its entirety, but **stayed the operation of certain contentious provisions** pending further judicial scrutiny.
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 15 सितंबर को पूरे रूप में वक्फ़ (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2025 को निलंबित करने से इंकार कर दिया, लेकिन कुछ विवादास्पद प्रावधानों के कार्यान्वयन को आगे की न्यायिक समीक्षा तक रोक दिया।
- The interim order, delivered by a Bench led by **Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai** and **Justice A.G. Masih**, put on hold the enforcement of provisions that:
अंतरिम आदेश, जिसे भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई और न्यायमूर्ति ए.जी. मसीह की बेंच ने दिया, उन प्रावधानों के लागू होने को रोकता है जो:
 - Empowered **District Collectors** to unilaterally decide whether a property claimed as **waqf** belonged to the **government**.
जिला कलेक्टरों को एकतरफा निर्णय लेने का अधिकार दिया कि क्या किसी संपत्ति का दावा वक्फ़ के रूप में सरकार के स्वामित्व में है।
 - Stipulated that only a **lawful property owner** who has been practising **Islam for at least five years** could create **waqf** through a formal deed.
यह प्रावधान किया कि केवल वही कानूनी संपत्ति मालिक, जो कम से कम पांच वर्षों से इस्लाम का पालन कर रहा हो, औपचारिक दस्तावेज़ के माध्यम से वक्फ़ बना सकता है।
 - Capped the number of **non-Muslims** who may be appointed to the **Central Waqf Council** and **State Waqf Boards**.
केंद्रीय वक्फ़ परिषद और राज्य वक्फ़ बोर्डों में नियुक्त किए जाने वाले गैर-मुस्लिमों की संख्या को सीमित किया।

Challenge Overview

चुनौती का अवलोकन

- Waqf**, under **Islamic law**, denotes a **charitable endowment** through which **property** is dedicated for **religious or philanthropic purposes**.
इस्लामिक कानून के तहत वक्फ़ एक धार्मिक या परोपकारी उद्देश्य के लिए संपत्ति को समर्पित करने वाला धार्मिक दान है।
- The **2025 law**, notified in **April** as an amendment to the **Waqf Act of 1995**, is projected by the **government** as a **comprehensive reform** aimed at **streamlining administration**.
2025 का कानून, जिसे अप्रैल में 1995 के वक्फ़ अधिनियम में संशोधन के रूप में अधिसूचित किया गया, को सरकार द्वारा व्यवस्था में सुधार के लिए एक व्यापक सुधार के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया।
- Critics describe it as an attempt to **extend State control** over **religious institutions**.
आलोचकों का कहना है कि यह धार्मिक संस्थानों पर राज्य नियंत्रण बढ़ाने का प्रयास है।

Petitioners and Grounds

याचिकाकर्ता और आधार

- Earlier this year, multiple petitioners challenged the law in the **Supreme Court**, citing infringement of **Article 26 (Muslim community's right to manage religious affairs)**.
इस साल की शुरुआत में, कई याचिकाकर्ताओं ने कानून को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती दी, यह बताते हुए कि यह अनुच्छेद 26 (मुस्लिम समुदाय का धार्मिक मामलों का प्रबंधन करने का अधिकार) का उल्लंघन है।
- Petitioners included leaders such as **AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi**, **Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra**, **RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha**, **YSR Congress**, and **Communist Party of India**.
याचिकाकर्ताओं में नेताओं जैसे AIMIM सांसद असदुद्दीन ओवैसी, त्रिनमूल कांग्रेस सांसद महुआ मोइत्रा, RJD सांसद मनोज कुमार झा, YSR कांग्रेस, और भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी शामिल थे।



- Arguments:
तर्क:
 - Requirement of being a practising **Muslim for five years** before creating **waqf** is **arbitrary** and curtails **religious freedoms**.
वक्फ बनाने से पहले पांच वर्षों तक इस्लाम का पालन करना मनमाना है और धार्मिक स्वतंत्रताओं को सीमित करता है।
 - **District Collectors deciding ownership disputes encroaches on the domain of civil courts and tribunals**.
जिला कलेक्टरों द्वारा स्वामित्व विवादों का निर्णय करना नागरिक अदालतों और न्यायाधिकरणों के क्षेत्र में हस्तक्षेप है।
 - Allowing **non-Muslims** on Waqf boards contravenes **Article 30**, the minority community's right to manage its institutions.
वक्फ बोर्डों पर गैर-मुस्लिमों की अनुमति अनुच्छेद 30 के अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करती है, जो अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय को अपने संस्थानों का प्रबंधन करने का अधिकार देती है।

Defense by Government सरकार द्वारा रक्षा

- **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta** defended that amendments promote **transparency** and **accountability** in management of **waqf properties**.
सॉलिसिटर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने रक्षा की कि संशोधन पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही को बढ़ावा देते हैं वक्फ संपत्तियों के प्रबंधन में।
- **Centralised registration** of properties and preliminary inquiry powers to **District Collectors** aim to **reduce litigation** and ease load on **tribunals**.
संपत्तियों का केंद्रीकृत पंजीकरण और जिला कलेक्टरों को प्रारंभिक जांच शक्तियां देने का उद्देश्य विवाद कम करना और न्यायाधिकरणों पर बोझ कम करना है।
- Inclusion of **non-Muslim members** is consistent with **principles of inclusivity and oversight**.
गैर-मुस्लिम सदस्यों को शामिल करना समावेशिता और निरीक्षण के सिद्धांतों के अनुरूप है।
- The **five-year practice requirement** aims to prevent **opportunistic claims of conversion**.
पाँच साल की प्रैक्टिस की आवश्यकता का उद्देश्य अवसरवादी धर्म परिवर्तन दावों को रोकना है।

Provisions Stayed by Supreme Court सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा स्थगित प्रावधान

- In its **128-page order**, the court upheld the **presumption of constitutionality** of the legislation but cautioned that enforcing it in full without safeguards could have **"serious consequences"** for **property rights** and weaken **minority protections**.
अपने 128-पृष्ठ के आदेश में, अदालत ने कानून की संवैधानिकता की धारणा को बनाए रखा लेकिन चेताया कि इसे पूरी तरह से बिना सुरक्षा उपायों के लागू करना संपत्ति अधिकारों के लिए "गंभीर परिणाम" ला सकता है और अल्पसंख्यक सुरक्षा को कमजोर कर सकता है।
- Therefore, the court **stayed certain contentious provisions**, clarifying these were only **interim directions** pending **final adjudication** of the **constitutional challenge**.
इसलिए, अदालत ने कुछ विवादास्पद प्रावधानों को स्थगित कर दिया, स्पष्ट करते हुए कि ये केवल अंतरिम निर्देश हैं और संवैधानिक चुनौती के अंतिम निर्णय तक लागू रहेंगे।
- The court **suspended Section 3C** of the amended law, which:
अदालत ने संशोधित कानून के धारा 3C को स्थगित किया, जो:
 - Authorised **District Collectors** to inquire whether property claimed as **waqf** was in fact **government land**.
जिला कलेक्टरों को यह अधिकार देता था कि वे जांच करें कि क्या किसी संपत्ति का दावा वक्फ के रूप में वास्तव में सरकारी भूमि है।
 - Allowed altering **revenue records** accordingly.
इसके अनुसार राजस्व रिकॉर्ड को संशोधित करने की अनुमति दी।



- The clause that **automatically divested property of its waqf status once an inquiry commenced** was struck down, called “**prima facie arbitrary**”; title questions must be decided by **judicial or quasi-judicial bodies**.
वह प्रावधान जिसे **जांच शुरू होने पर संपत्ति का वक्फ दर्जा स्वतः हटा दिया जाता था**, उसे खारिज कर दिया गया, इसे “**प्राइमाफेशियल मनमाना**” कहा; स्वामित्व के सवाल न्यायिक या अर्ध-न्यायिक संस्थाओं द्वारा तय किए जाने चाहिए।
- Waqf properties will **not be dispossessed** during proceedings; **mutawallis or custodians** are barred from creating **third-party rights** until matter is **finally decided by Waqf tribunals or High Courts**.
कार्यवाही के दौरान वक्फ संपत्तियों को **हटा नहीं जाएगा**; **मुतावल्ली या संरक्षक** विवादित संपत्तियों में **तीसरे पक्ष के अधिकार** बनाने से रोके जाएंगे जब तक कि मामला **अंतिम रूप से वक्फ न्यायाधिकरण या उच्च न्यायालयों** द्वारा निर्णयित नहीं हो जाता।
- Land belonging to **Scheduled Tribes** or **protected monuments** under **central or State laws** cannot be declared **waqf**, citing **constitutional safeguards** and **statutory protections**.
अनुसूचित जनजातियों की भूमि या **केंद्रीय या राज्य कानूनों** के तहत **सुरक्षित स्मारक** को **वक्फ घोषित नहीं** किया जा सकता, इसके लिए **संवैधानिक सुरक्षा** और **वैधानिक संरक्षण** का हवाला दिया।
- **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958** allows citizens to **continue customary religious practices** even in areas notified as **protected monuments**.
प्राचीन स्मारक और पुरातात्विक स्थलों और अवशेष अधिनियम, 1958 नागरिकों को **परंपरागत धार्मिक प्रथाओं** को जारी रखने की अनुमति देता है, भले ही क्षेत्र **सुरक्षित स्मारक** घोषित हो।
- **The 2025 Act amended the definition of ‘waqf’ to restrict creation to a person practising Islam for at least five years**.
2025 के अधिनियम ने **‘वक्फ’ की परिभाषा** में संशोधन किया ताकि इसे केवल **पांच वर्षों से इस्लाम का पालन करने वाले व्यक्ति** तक सीमित किया जा सके।
- Petitioners challenged this as **arbitrary and discriminatory**, arguing it empowered **executive officials** to adjudicate **religiosity of citizens**.
याचिकाकर्ताओं ने इसे **मनमाना और भेदभावपूर्ण** बताया, तर्क देते हुए कि यह **कार्यकारी अधिकारियों** को **नागरिकों की धार्मिकता** का निर्णय लेने का अधिकार देता है।
- The Bench declined to strike it down, holding it justified to prevent **potential misuse of waqf properties**.
बेंच ने इसे खारिज नहीं किया, इसे **वक्फ संपत्तियों के संभावित दुरुपयोग** को रोकने के लिए उचित माना।
- The court observed the possibility of **conversion** to Islam to benefit from the Waqf Act **cannot be ruled out**.
अदालत ने देखा कि **वक्फ अधिनियम से लाभ** लेने के लिए इस्लाम में **धर्मांतरण** की संभावना को **अस्वीकृत नहीं किया जा सकता**।
- No procedure currently exists to verify **five-year practice**; operation **suspended** until Centre frames **rules**.
वर्तमान में **पांच साल की प्रैक्टिस** सत्यापित करने की कोई प्रक्रिया नहीं है; जब तक केंद्र **नियम** नहीं बनाता, इसका कार्यान्वयन **स्थगित** रहेगा।
- Only property **owned by the person creating waqf** may be dedicated; upheld under **Islamic jurisprudence** and **principles of charity**.
केवल वही संपत्ति जो **वक्फ बनाने वाले की हो**, समर्पित की जा सकती है; इसे **इस्लामी कानून** और **धार्मिक दान सिद्धांतों** के तहत बनाए रखा।
- Petitioners opposed provisions permitting **non-Muslims** on **Waqf boards** and **Central Waqf Council**, claiming it undermines the community's **constitutional rights**.
याचिकाकर्ताओं ने **गैर-मुस्लिमों** को **वक्फ बोर्डों** और **केंद्रीय वक्फ परिषद** में शामिल करने के प्रावधानों का विरोध किया, तर्क दिया कि यह **समुदाय के संवैधानिक अधिकारों** को कमजोर करता है।
- The court directed the **Central Waqf Council (22-member body)** to include **no more than four non-Muslim members**; **State Waqf boards (11 members)** capped at **three non-Muslims**.
अदालत ने निर्देश दिया कि **केंद्रीय वक्फ परिषद (22 सदस्यीय)** में **चार से अधिक गैर-मुस्लिम सदस्य नहीं होंगे**; **राज्य वक्फ बोर्ड (11 सदस्य)** में **तीन गैर-मुस्लिम अधिकतम होंगे**।
- The amended law removes the requirement that the Chief **Executive Officer of Waqf board** must be Muslim; suggested preferably **held by a community member**.



संशोधित कानून से यह आवश्यकता हटा दी गई कि **वक्फ बोर्ड के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी** मुस्लिम होना चाहिए; सुझाव दिया कि इसे **समुदाय के सदस्य** द्वारा रखा जाना चाहिए।

Provisions that will continue to operate जिन प्रावधानों को जारी रखा जाएगा

- The court allowed certain **key provisions** to remain in force, relying on the government's argument that they were necessary to **curb mismanagement and misuse of Waqf endowments**.
अदालत ने कुछ **मुख्य प्रावधानों** को लागू रहने की अनुमति दी, सरकार के तर्क पर भरोसा करते हुए कि ये **वक्फ निधियों के कुप्रबंधन और दुरुपयोग** को रोकने के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
- Petitioners contested the removal of the **long-standing doctrine of "waqf by user"**, under which land employed for **Muslim religious or charitable purposes** over a sustained period could be deemed **waqf** even without **formal registration**.
याचिकाकर्ताओं ने **"वक्फ बाय यूजर"** की लंबे समय से चली आ रही सिद्धांत को हटाने का विरोध किया, जिसके तहत **मुस्लिम धार्मिक या दानशील प्रयोजनों** के लिए लंबे समय तक प्रयुक्त भूमि को **वक्फ** माना जा सकता है, भले ही **औपचारिक पंजीकरण** न हो।
- They contended that abolishing this principle struck at the **very core of waqf jurisprudence**.
उनका तर्क था कि इस सिद्धांत को समाप्त करना **वक्फ विधि के मूल** पर चोट करता है।
- The court declined to suspend the provision's **prospective operation**, observing that the doctrine had frequently been exploited to claim **extensive tracts of government land as waqf property**.
अदालत ने इस प्रावधान के **भविष्य के कार्यान्वयन** को स्थगित करने से इनकार किया, यह देखते हुए कि इस सिद्धांत का अक्सर **सरकारी भूमि के विशाल हिस्सों** को **वक्फ संपत्ति** के रूप में दावा करने के लिए दुरुपयोग किया गया।
- The court noted that if the **legislature, in 2025**, finds that due to **'waqf by user'**, huge government properties have been **encroached upon**, deleting the provision would **prima facie not be arbitrary**.
अदालत ने नोट किया कि यदि **विधायिका, 2025 में**, पाती है कि **'वक्फ बाय यूजर'** के कारण विशाल सरकारी संपत्तियों पर **अतिक्रमण** हुआ है, तो इस प्रावधान को हटाना **प्राइमफेशियल रूप से मनमाना** नहीं कहा जा सकता।
- Judges recalled a **2022 ruling** where the Supreme Court struck down a **notification of Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board** seeking to designate **thousands of acres of State-owned land as waqf**.
न्यायाधीशों ने **2022 के निर्णय** को याद किया, जिसमें सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **आंध्र प्रदेश वक्फ बोर्ड की अधिसूचना** को खारिज कर दिया था, जिसमें **राज्य-स्वामित्व वाली हजारों एकड़ भूमि** को **वक्फ** के रूप में नामित करने का प्रयास किया गया था।
- The court upheld the requirement of **registering waqf properties** on a **central digital portal**, noting it is essential for **transparency** and has been required by law since **1923**.
अदालत ने **वक्फ संपत्तियों के केंद्रीय डिजिटल पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण** की आवश्यकता को बनाए रखा, noting कि यह **पारदर्शिता** के लिए आवश्यक है और **1923** से कानून द्वारा आवश्यक है।
- The court refused to stay the application of the **Limitation Act, 1963**, to waqf properties, noting the statute applies **uniformly** to all properties.
अदालत ने **सीमित अवधि अधिनियम, 1963** के वक्फ संपत्तियों पर लागू होने को स्थगित करने से इनकार किया, यह नोट करते हुए कि यह कानून सभी संपत्तियों पर **समान रूप से** लागू होता है।
- Under the **1995 Act**, waqf land had been **exempt**, allowing Waqf boards to **reclaim encroached property** without being bound by the **12-year limitation period**.
1995 के अधिनियम के तहत, वक्फ भूमि **मुक्त** थी, जिससे वक्फ बोर्ड को **अतिक्रमित संपत्ति** को वापस लेने की अनुमति थी, **12-साल की सीमा** के अधीन नहीं।

Implications परिणाम

- Faizan Mustafa, academician and **Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna**, told The Hindu that reading too much into the **interim order** would be premature since



the **judgment on merits** is still awaited.

फैजान मुस्तफा, अकादमिक और **चाणक्य नेशनल लॉ यूनिवर्सिटी, पटना** के कुलपति, ने द हिंदू से कहा कि **अंतरिम आदेश** में बहुत अधिक अर्थ निकालना समय से पूर्व होगा, क्योंकि **मूल फैसले** का इंतजार अभी है।

- “The court may strike down a few more problematic provisions or even uphold those it has now sustained,” he said.

उन्होंने कहा, “अदालत कुछ और विवादास्पद प्रावधानों को खारिज कर सकती है या अब तक जिन प्रावधानों को बनाए रखा है, उन्हें बनाए रख सकती है।”

- On the court’s refusal to treat the **five-year requirement of “practising Islam”** as constitutionally suspect, Dr. Mustafa said it effectively **empowers state officials** to adjudicate an individual’s **religiosity**.

अदालत द्वारा “**पांच साल इस्लाम का अभ्यास**” की आवश्यकता को संवैधानिक रूप से संदिग्ध न मानने पर, डॉ. मुस्तफा ने कहा कि यह प्रभावी रूप से **राज्य अधिकारियों को** एक व्यक्ति की **धार्मिकता** का निर्णय लेने का अधिकार देता है।

- “Once a person embraces Islam, they acquire all associated rights, including the right to religious dedication. Whether one accepted the faith yesterday or was born into it makes no difference. Introducing such a caveat into property rights will only result in policing private religious choices,” he cautioned.

उन्होंने चेताया, “एक बार व्यक्ति इस्लाम अपना लेता है, तो उसे सभी संबंधित अधिकार मिल जाते हैं, जिसमें धार्मिक समर्पण का अधिकार भी शामिल है। चाहे किसी ने कल धर्म स्वीकार किया हो या जन्म से वह धर्म में हो, कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता। ऐसे शर्त को संपत्ति अधिकारों में शामिल करना केवल निजी धार्मिक विकल्पों की निगरानी का कारण बनेगा।”

- However, he welcomed the court’s finding that **vesting executive officers** with power to decide **questions of title** contravenes the principle of **separation of powers**.

हालांकि, उन्होंने अदालत के इस निष्कर्ष का स्वागत किया कि **कार्यकारी अधिकारियों को स्वामित्व के प्रश्न** तय करने का अधिकार देना **शक्ति पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत** के विपरीत है।

PATRIOTIC



In Nordic dispute over European Union's forest targets, echoes of Greece's crisis

GS II: Supranational Framework
GS III: Environment & Agriculture

The European Union (EU) is once again facing a test of how well its supranational frameworks can accommodate diverse economies and ecologies of its member-States. A dispute over forest management has now erupted with Sweden and Finland warning of "dire" economic consequences if they are forced to cut back on logging to meet the EU's climate-policy targets. The argument turns on carbon uptake and emissions accounting as well as on questions of sovereignty, livelihoods, and fairness. For observers of Europe's recent past, the situation carries echoes of another era of tension between national economies and EU rules: the Greek debt crisis of the last decade.

Under the EU's Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) regulation, member-States are required to ensure their forests are "sinks" rather than "sources" of greenhouse gases. That is, the total volume of carbon absorbed by trees and soil must not fall below a given threshold. Sweden and Finland have been assigned ambitious targets to raise carbon uptake by around 4 million tonne (MT) of CO₂ a year by 2030 in Sweden's case and 3 MT for Finland.

Economic assets

On paper, these numbers are designed to keep Europe on track to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. In practice, however, the Nordic governments have said they are unworkable. Slower tree growth, which is partially attributable to climate change itself,



Bone of contention: A man is seen fishing on a frozen lake at the Pajulahti sports centre near Lahti, Finland. REUTERS

means forests are less efficient carbon sinks than scientists once believed. At the same time, the war in Ukraine has driven the demand for timber, pulp and biomass up, imposing additional pressure on logging. Both governments have thus insisted, without revised figures, the EU framework will lead to "unreasonable and unjustified restrictions" on forestry.

To be clear, forests are not a marginal industry in Nordic economies. They cover about 70% of the land area in both countries, directly employ more than 2 lakh people and generate a sizeable share of exports: more than 10% in Sweden and almost 20% in Finland. Also, forestry has long been woven into national narratives of resourcefulness and resilience as well in the region.

The EU's demand to reduce logging strikes at this foundation. For Finland in particular, the wood products sector supports rural communities where alternative employment is hard to come by. Policymakers in Helsinki and Stockholm have argued that tightening restrictions would trig-

ger job losses, depress regional economies and erode the competitiveness of domestic companies in global markets.

This said, industry and many national policymakers see forests as renewable resources that, if managed sustainably, could support economic growth and contribute to green transition. Timber, pulp, and biofuels have been promoted as substitutes for fossil fuels, plastics, and concrete – all materials with currently very high carbon footprints.

Structural challenge

On the other hand, environmental scientists and NGOs have countered that intensive logging, planting monocultures, and using short harvest cycles will diminish biodiversity and reduce forests' capacity for sequestering carbon. They have also contended the EU's climate goals won't be met if forests are treated primarily as economic assets. From this perspective, the Nordic States' protest reflects an unwillingness to accept "business as usual" forestry practices are incompatible

with climate neutrality.

This standoff isn't only a disagreement over numbers: it highlights a structural challenge at the heart of European integration, concerned with designing uniform frameworks that are effective at the EU level as well as feasible for very different member states.

Just as Greece once complained that deficit-reduction targets ignored the realities of its economy, which was struck by recession, Sweden and Finland argued LULUCF benchmarks ignore ecological and geopolitical contexts they alone face. In both cases, a "one size fits all" approach threatens to become politically combustible. EU frameworks often embody long-term objectives such as debt sustainability in the case of Greece and climate neutrality in the case of forestry. Yet the States that implement them experience consequences in the short term as austerity and economic restriction, respectively. The ultimate political risk is that populations view Brussels as imposing hardship without offering credible paths to adjustment.

Setting industrial policy

Both crises also touch on sovereignty. For Athens, the issue was fiscal autonomy, and for Stockholm and Helsinki, control over national resources. If Sweden and Finland were to comply strictly with the EU's targets, the economic costs would likely include reduced export earnings, job losses in forestry communities, and ripple effects in industries such as paper, packaging, and bioenergy. If they resist, they risk fines, reputational dam-

age, and potentially lower influence within EU climate negotiations – a dynamic that mirrors the "damned if you do, damned if you don't" trap Greece found itself in, as austerity compliance meant deep recession while defiance meant financial isolation.

Another parallel lies in recognising that the EU's rules aren't just technical adjustments but industrial policy by another name. By setting carbon-sink targets, Brussels is effectively shaping the future structure of Nordic economies, pushing them away from resource-intensive forestry toward other forms of value creation. In the same way, debt and deficit targets reshaped the Greek economy, shrinking public services, lowering wages, and forcing privatisation.

Cautionary tales

All this said, the Greek crisis is not an exact template – though it also offers warnings and, possibly, limited guidance. For example, Greece's fiscal targets were widely judged by economists to be unattainable without catastrophic economic contraction. Sticking with them stretched the recession and deepened public resentment.

The lesson for today's forestry dispute is the EU risks discrediting its climate policy if targets are set beyond ecological or economic feasibility. Second, in Greece, a rigid insistence on austerity nearly pushed the country out of the euro. A more flexible approach could have preserved economic stability and public trust. Likewise, for Sweden and Finland, the space for talks, per-

haps through transitional allowances, differentiated accounting methods and investment support, could prevent confrontation.

Third, Greece eventually received bailouts, although they were tied to painful conditions. If the EU expects Nordic States to bear the cost of adjusting forestry practices to fit its needs, it will have to install mechanisms of solidarity such as compensatory funds and support for diversification. If climate neutrality is to be viewed as a collective good, the burden must also be shared collectively. Finally, the Greek crisis fuelled Euroscepticism and left scars on the EU's legitimacy. If the forestry dispute is mishandled, it could have similar but more magnified effects by eroding confidence in climate policy.

Of course, the analogy is also limited. Greece was insolvent and depended on the EU and the International Monetary Fund for financing. Finland and Sweden, on the other hand, are fiscally stable, wealthy, and central to EU security since they joined NATO in 2023 and 2024, respectively. Their bargaining power is thus far greater.

Also, enforcing sound climate policy remains an urgent global necessity whereas the Greek debt restructuring could (technically) be postponed.

Thus the Greek episode offers fewer solutions than cautionary tales, in particular to avoid rigid targets, maintain solidarity and respect national contexts. The rest will have to be worked out through political talks and by recognising climate action always entails economic trade-off.

In Nordic dispute over European Union's forest targets, echoes of Greece's crisis

यूरोपीय संघ के वन लक्ष्यों पर नॉर्डिक विवाद में ग्रीस संकट की गूंज

- The **European Union (EU)** is once again facing a test of how well its **supranational frameworks** can accommodate diverse **economies** and **ecologies** of its **member-States**.
यूरोपीय संघ (EU) एक बार फिर यह जांच का सामना कर रहा है कि उसके अंतरराष्ट्रीय ढांचे किस तरह से अपने सदस्य देशों की विविध अर्थव्यवस्थाओं और पर्यावरणों को समायोजित कर सकते हैं।
- A dispute over **forest management** has now erupted with **Sweden** and **Finland** warning of "dire" economic consequences if they are forced to cut back on **logging** to meet the **EU's climate-policy targets**.
वन प्रबंधन को लेकर एक विवाद अब उभरा है जिसमें स्वीडन और फिनलैंड ने चेतावनी दी है कि यदि उन्हें EU के जलवायु-नीति लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए लकड़ी की कटाई कम करने पर मजबूर किया गया तो "गंभीर" आर्थिक परिणाम होंगे।
- The argument turns on **carbon uptake** and **emissions accounting** as well as on questions of **sovereignty, livelihoods, and fairness**.



यह तर्क कार्बन अवशोषण और उत्सर्जन लेखांकन के साथ-साथ संप्रभुता, जीविका, और न्याय के प्रश्नों पर आधारित है।

- For observers of Europe's recent past, the situation carries echoes of another era of tension between **national economies** and **EU rules**: the **Greek debt crisis** of the last decade. यूरोप के हाल के अतीत के पर्यवेक्षकों के लिए यह स्थिति राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं और EU नियमों के बीच तनाव के एक और दौर की गूँज लिए हुए है: पिछले दशक का **ग्रीक ऋण संकट**।
- Under the **EU's Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)** regulation, member-States are required to ensure their forests are "**sinks**" rather than "**sources**" of **greenhouse gases**.
EU के भूमि उपयोग, भूमि उपयोग परिवर्तन और वानिकी (LULUCF) विनियमन के तहत, सदस्य देशों को यह सुनिश्चित करना आवश्यक है कि उनके वन **ग्रीनहाउस गैसों** के "**स्रोत**" नहीं बल्कि "**अवशोषक (सिंक)**" हों।
- That is, the total volume of **carbon absorbed** by trees and soil must not fall below a given threshold.
अर्थात्, **पेड़ों** और **मिट्टी** द्वारा **अवशोषित कार्बन** की कुल मात्रा एक निर्धारित सीमा से कम नहीं होनी चाहिए।
- Sweden** and **Finland** have been assigned ambitious targets to raise **carbon uptake** by around **4 million tonnes (MT)** of **CO2** a year by **2030** in Sweden's case and **3 MT** for Finland.
स्वीडन और **फिनलैंड** को **2030** तक **स्वीडन** के लिए **CO2** के लगभग **4 मिलियन टन (MT)** और **फिनलैंड** के लिए **3 MT** प्रति वर्ष **कार्बन अवशोषण** बढ़ाने के महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य दिए गए हैं।
- On paper, these numbers are designed to keep **Europe** on track to achieve **net-zero emissions by 2050**.
कागज पर, ये आंकड़े यूरोप को **2050 तक शुद्ध-शून्य उत्सर्जन** प्राप्त करने के मार्ग पर बनाए रखने के लिए तैयार किए गए हैं।
- In practice, however, the **Nordic governments** have said they are **unworkable**.
हालांकि, व्यवहार में **नॉर्डिक सरकारों** ने कहा है कि ये **अव्यवहारिक** हैं।
- Slower **tree growth**, partially attributable to **climate change** itself, means forests are less efficient **carbon sinks** than scientists once believed.
धीमी **पेड़ वृद्धि**, जो आंशिक रूप से **जलवायु परिवर्तन** के कारण है, का मतलब है कि वन वैज्ञानिकों की पहले की मान्यता के अनुसार **कार्बन अवशोषक** के रूप में कम कुशल हैं।
- The **war in Ukraine** has driven the demand for **timber, pulp, and biomass** up, imposing additional pressure on **logging**.
यूक्रेन में युद्ध ने **लकड़ी, गूदा (पल्प)** और **बायोमास** की मांग बढ़ा दी है, जिससे **लकड़ी की कटाई** पर अतिरिक्त दबाव पड़ा है।
- Both governments have thus insisted, without revised figures, the **EU framework** will lead to "**unreasonable and unjustified restrictions**" on forestry.
इस प्रकार, दोनों सरकारों ने जोर दिया है कि संशोधित आंकड़ों के बिना **EU ढांचा वानिकी** पर "**असमझदार और अनुचित प्रतिबंधों**" का कारण बनेगा।
- Forests cover about **70%** of the land area in both countries, directly employ more than **2 lakh people**, and generate a sizeable share of **exports**: more than **10% in Sweden** and almost **20% in Finland**.
दोनों देशों में वन लगभग **70%** भूमि क्षेत्र को कवर करते हैं, **2 लाख से अधिक लोगों** को सीधे रोजगार प्रदान करते हैं और **निर्यात** में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान करते हैं: **स्वीडन में 10% से अधिक** और **फिनलैंड में लगभग 20%**।
- The EU's demand to reduce **logging** strikes at this foundation.
लकड़ी की कटाई कम करने की **EU** की मांग इस नींव पर प्रहार करती है।
- For **Finland**, the **wood products sector** supports **rural communities** where alternative employment is scarce.
फिनलैंड के लिए, **लकड़ी उत्पाद क्षेत्र** उन **ग्रामीण समुदायों** का समर्थन करता है जहां वैकल्पिक रोजगार की कमी है।
- Policymakers in **Helsinki** and **Stockholm** have argued that **tightening restrictions** would trigger **job losses**, depress **regional economies**, and erode **competitiveness** in **global markets**.
हेलसिंकी और **स्टॉकहोम** में नीति निर्माताओं ने तर्क दिया है कि **प्रतिबंधों को कड़ा करना नौकरी में कमी**,



क्षेत्रीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को कमजोर करना और वैश्विक बाजारों में प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को कम करना शुरू कर देगा।

- Environmental **scientists** and **NGOs** have countered that **intensive logging**, planting **monocultures**, and using **short harvest cycles** will reduce **biodiversity** and forests' **capacity** for **sequestering carbon**.
पर्यावरण वैज्ञानिकों और गैर सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) ने कहा है कि अत्यधिक लकड़ी की कटाई, एकल फसलों की रोपाई, और कम फसल चक्रों का उपयोग जैव विविधता को कम करेगा और वनों की कार्बन अवशोषण क्षमता को घटाएगा।
- They have also contended the **EU's climate goals** won't be met if forests are treated primarily as **economic assets**.
उन्होंने यह भी तर्क दिया कि यदि वनों को मुख्य रूप से आर्थिक संपत्ति के रूप में देखा गया तो **EU के जलवायु लक्ष्य** पूरे नहीं होंगे।
- This standoff isn't only a disagreement over numbers but highlights a **structural challenge** at the heart of **European integration**.
यह गतिरोध केवल आंकड़ों पर असहमति नहीं है बल्कि **यूरोपीय एकीकरण** के केंद्र में एक **संरचनात्मक चुनौती** को उजागर करता है।
- Just as **Greece** once complained **deficit-reduction targets** ignored the realities of its **economy**, **Sweden** and **Finland** argue **LULUCF benchmarks** ignore their **ecological and geopolitical contexts**.
जिस तरह **ग्रीस** ने एक बार शिकायत की थी कि **घाटा घटाने के लक्ष्य** उसकी **अर्थव्यवस्था** की वास्तविकताओं को नजरअंदाज करते हैं, उसी तरह **स्वीडन** और **फिनलैंड** का तर्क है कि **LULUCF मानदंड** उनके **पारिस्थितिक और भू-राजनीतिक संदर्भों** को नजरअंदाज करते हैं।
- If **Sweden** and **Finland** comply strictly with the **EU's targets**, it will result in **reduced export earnings**, **job losses**, and ripple effects in industries like **paper**, **packaging**, and **bioenergy**.
यदि **स्वीडन** और **फिनलैंड** **EU के लक्ष्यों** का सख्ती से पालन करते हैं, तो इसका परिणाम **निर्यात आय में कमी**, **नौकरी की हानि**, और **कागज**, **पैकेजिंग** और **बायोएनर्जी** जैसी उद्योगों पर असर होगा।
- If they resist, they risk **finances**, **reputational damage**, and **lower influence** within **EU climate negotiations**.
यदि वे विरोध करते हैं, तो उन्हें **जुर्माना**, **प्रतिष्ठा हानि**, और **EU जलवायु वार्ताओं** में **कम प्रभाव** का खतरा होगा।
- The **EU's rules**, by setting **carbon-sink targets**, are effectively shaping the future structure of **Nordic economies**.
EU के नियम, **कार्बन-सिंक लक्ष्यों** को निर्धारित करके, प्रभावी रूप से **नॉर्डिक अर्थव्यवस्थाओं** की भविष्य की संरचना को आकार दे रहे हैं।
- The lesson from the **Greek crisis** is that the **EU risks discrediting** its **climate policy** if targets are set beyond **ecological or economic feasibility**.
ग्रीस संकट से सीख यह है कि यदि लक्ष्य **पारिस्थितिक या आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता** से परे निर्धारित किए गए तो **EU अपनी जलवायु नीति** को **अविश्वसनीय** बनाने का जोखिम उठाता है।
- For **Sweden** and **Finland**, the space for talks, transitional allowances, differentiated accounting methods, and **investment support** could prevent confrontation.
स्वीडन और **फिनलैंड** के लिए, वार्ता की गुंजाइश, संक्रमणकालीन भत्ते, विभेदित लेखांकन विधियां, और **निवेश समर्थन** टकराव को रोक सकते हैं।
- If **climate neutrality** is to be viewed as a **collective good**, the **burden** must also be **shared collectively**.
यदि **जलवायु तटस्थता** को **सामूहिक भलाई** के रूप में देखा जाना है, तो **भार** को भी **सामूहिक रूप से साझा** किया जाना चाहिए।
- If the forestry dispute is mishandled, it could erode **confidence** in **climate policy** and fuel **Euroscepticism**.
यदि वानिकी विवाद को गलत तरीके से संभाला गया, तो यह **जलवायु नीति** में **विश्वास** को कमजोर कर सकता है और **यूरो-विरोध** को बढ़ावा दे सकता है।



GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, & IS

TOPICS COVERED 18_09_2025

1. SC calls for jailing of stubble burners; not feasible, says Centre
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पराली जलाने वालों को जेल भेजने की बात कही; केंद्र ने कहा संभव नहीं
2. 'Periyar Tiger Reserve diverted funds without Kerala government's approval'
'पेरियार टाइगर रिज़र्व ने केरल सरकार की मंजूरी के बिना फंड्स का दुरुपयोग किया'
3. EU-India partnership set for upgrade
ईयू-भारत साझेदारी उन्नयन के लिए तैयार
4. First batch of hilsa fish from Bangladesh reaches India
बांग्लादेश से हिलसा मछली की पहली खेप भारत पहुंची
5. CAG developing LLM for accurate auditing, efficiency
सटीक ऑडिटिंग और दक्षता के लिए CAG LLM विकसित कर रहा है
6. Ahead of COP30, major emitters delay update on climate goals; EU yet to finalise consensus
COP30 से पहले, प्रमुख उत्सर्जक जलवायु लक्ष्यों के अपडेट में देरी कर रहे हैं; ईयू अभी सहमति पर नहीं पहुंचा है
7. Top court seeks CBI probe into tiger poaching ring
शीर्ष अदालत ने बाघों के शिकार गिरोह की CBI जांच की मांग की
8. Crosstalk: waning immunity against Japanese encephalitis worsens dengue
क्रॉसटॉक: जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस के खिलाफ घटती प्रतिरक्षा डेंगू को और खराब करती है
9. QUIZ
10. 'First round of FTA talks with Russia bloc EAEU likely in Nov.'
'रूस ब्लॉक EAEU के साथ FTA वार्ता का पहला दौर नवंबर में होने की संभावना'
11. SEBI may okay banks' investing in non-agriculture derivatives
गैर-कृषि डेरिवेटिव्स में बैंकों के निवेश को SEBI मंजूरी दे सकता है



SC calls for jailing of stubble burners; not feasible, says Centre

GS III: Environment
Krisnamoorthy Kapur
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court and the Union government differed sharply on Wednesday over how to deal with farmers who pollute the air by burning stubble ahead of the winter season.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench, advocated a return to criminal prosecution of errant agriculturists, even suggesting a separate legislation. The Centre, however, maintained that its policy was to take farmers along rather than put them behind bars.

“Why do you not reintroduce criminal prosecution for stubble-burning? If some people are behind the bars, it will give the right message,” the Chief Justice asked the Centre.

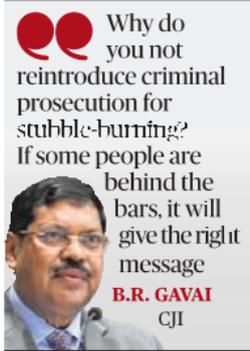
Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Union government, said the issue boiled down to implementation by the State governments, noting that farmers had been exempted from prosecution under the Commission for Air Quality Management Act as a matter of policy. It would not be feasible to prosecute farmers criminally, she argued.

Return to square one

The exchange came after *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, pointed out that despite “humongous” efforts and funds spent by the Centre, farmers continued to burn stubble, creating a toxic haze across northern States each winter. She said the situation returned to square one every season despite repeated Supreme Court directions.

“If you really have any intention to protect the environment, why don’t you?” the CJI pressed.

Ms. Bhati replied that



the government’s approach was to take farmers “along with us”.

“Do take them along with you, but ultimately, you should have a mechanism to deal with stubble. You give them the carrot first, but then the stick. You cannot be swayed solely because of a five-year exercise [elections],” the CJI responded.

Ms. Bhati clarified that the policy was not dictated by vote bank politics. “It is not because of the five-yearly exercise. It is simply a matter of policy for us,” she submitted.

The Chief Justice noted that while farmers hold a special place in the country, they too have a responsibility. “It is because of them that we get what we eat, but that does not mean they should not be brought in to protect the environment of the country. We are not saying you penalise farmers as a routine, do it as a sample to send the message across,” he said.

Ms. Bhati said the Centre would file a detailed status report reflecting the ground situation in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

“You should take all the States aboard and then come up with a uniform policy [on stubble-burning]. You consider doing that, or we will issue mandamus,” the CJI said.

SC calls for jailing of stubble burners; not feasible, says Centre

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पराली जलाने वालों को जेल भेजने की बात कही; केंद्र ने कहा संभव नहीं

The Supreme Court and the Union government differed sharply on Wednesday over how to deal with farmers who pollute the air by burning stubble ahead of the winter season.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट और केंद्र सरकार के बीच बुधवार को इस बात पर गहरा मतभेद हुआ कि सर्दियों से पहले पराली जलाकर हवा को प्रदूषित करने वाले किसानों से कैसे निपटा जाए।

Chief Justice of India **B.R. Gavai**, heading a Bench, advocated a return to **criminal prosecution** of errant agriculturists, even suggesting a separate legislation. The **Centre**, however, maintained that its policy was to take farmers along rather than put them behind bars.

भारत के **मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई**, जो एक पीठ की अध्यक्षता कर रहे थे, ने दोषी किसानों के खिलाफ **आपराधिक मुकदमे** को फिर से लागू करने का समर्थन किया और यहां तक कि एक अलग कानून का सुझाव भी दिया। लेकिन **केंद्र सरकार** का कहना था कि उसकी नीति किसानों को जेल में डालने के बजाय उनके साथ मिलकर काम करने की है।

“Why do you not reintroduce **criminal prosecution** for stubble-burning? If some people are behind the bars, it will give the right message,” the **Chief Justice** asked the Centre. “आप पराली जलाने के लिए **आपराधिक मुकदमे** को फिर से क्यों नहीं लागू करते? अगर कुछ लोग जेल में होंगे, तो यह सही संदेश देगा,” **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** ने केंद्र से पूछा।

Additional Solicitor-General **Aishwarya Bhati**, appearing for the Union government, said the issue boiled down to implementation by the **State governments**, noting that farmers had been **exempted from prosecution** under the **Commission for Air Quality Management Act** as a matter of policy. It would not be feasible to prosecute farmers criminally, she argued.

केंद्र सरकार की ओर से पेश **अतिरिक्त सॉलिसिटर जनरल ऐश्वर्या भाटी** ने कहा कि यह मुद्दा **राज्य सरकारों** द्वारा लागू किए जाने से जुड़ा है। उन्होंने बताया कि किसानों को नीति के तहत **वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग अधिनियम** के अंतर्गत **मुकदमे से छूट** दी गई है। उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि किसानों पर **आपराधिक मुकदमा** चलाना व्यावहारिक नहीं होगा।

Return to square one फिर वहीं लौटना

The exchange came after **amicus curiae**, senior advocate **Aparajita Singh**, pointed out that despite “humongous” efforts and funds spent by the Centre, farmers continued to burn stubble, creating a toxic haze across **northern States** each winter. She said the situation returned to square one every season despite repeated **Supreme Court directions**.

यह बहस तब हुई जब **अमिकस क्यूरी**, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **अपराजिता सिंह** ने बताया कि केंद्र सरकार के “विशाल” प्रयासों और खर्चों के बावजूद, किसान पराली जलाते रहे, जिससे हर सर्दियों में **उत्तरी राज्यों** में जहरीली धुंध बन जाती है। उन्होंने कहा कि बार-बार **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशों** के



बावजूद हर सीजन में स्थिति फिर से वैसी ही हो जाती है।

- “If you really have any intention to protect the environment, why don't you?” the **CJI** pressed. “अगर आपका वास्तव में पर्यावरण की रक्षा करने का इरादा है, तो आप ऐसा क्यों नहीं करते?” **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** ने जोर देकर कहा।
- Ms. Bhati replied that the government's approach was to take farmers “along with us”. **भाटी** ने जवाब दिया कि सरकार का तरीका किसानों को “अपने साथ लेकर चलने” का है।
- “Do take them along with you, but ultimately, you should have a mechanism to deal with stubble. You give them the **carrot first, but then the stick**. You cannot be swayed solely because of a **five-year exercise [elections]**,” the **CJI** responded. “उन्हें अपने साथ लेकर चलिए, लेकिन आखिरकार आपके पास पराली से निपटने का एक **तंत्र** होना चाहिए। पहले उन्हें **प्रलोभन (गाजर)** दें, लेकिन बाद में **सख्ती (छड़ी)** भी दिखाएं। आप केवल **पांच साल की प्रक्रिया [चुनाव]** के कारण प्रभावित नहीं हो सकते,” **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** ने जवाब दिया।
- Ms. Bhati clarified that the policy was not dictated by **vote bank politics**. “It is not because of the five-yearly exercise. It is simply a matter of policy for us,” she submitted. **भाटी** ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह नीति **वोट बैंक की राजनीति** से प्रेरित नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा, “यह पांच साल की प्रक्रिया के कारण नहीं है। यह सिर्फ हमारी नीति का मामला है।”
- The **Chief Justice** noted that while farmers hold a special place in the country, they too have a responsibility. “It is because of them that we get what we eat, but that does not mean they should not be brought in to protect the environment of the country. We are not saying you penalise farmers as a routine, do it as a sample to send the message across,” he said. **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** ने कहा कि किसान देश में विशेष स्थान रखते हैं, लेकिन उनकी भी जिम्मेदारी है। उन्होंने कहा, “उनकी वजह से हमें खाने को मिलता है, लेकिन इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि उन्हें देश के पर्यावरण की रक्षा के लिए जिम्मेदार नहीं ठहराया जाना चाहिए। हम यह नहीं कह रहे कि किसानों को हमेशा दंडित करें, लेकिन एक **उदाहरण** के तौर पर ऐसा करें ताकि संदेश जाए।”
- Ms. Bhati said the **Centre** would file a **detailed status report** reflecting the ground situation in **Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh**. **भाटी** ने कहा कि **केंद्र सरकार पंजाब, हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश** की जमीनी स्थिति को दर्शाने वाली एक **विस्तृत स्थिति रिपोर्ट** दाखिल करेगी।
- “You should take all the **States** aboard and then come up with a **uniform policy** [on stubble-burning]. You consider doing that, or we will issue **mandamus**,” the **CJI** said. “आपको सभी **राज्यों** को साथ लेकर पराली जलाने पर एक **समान नीति** बनानी चाहिए। आप ऐसा करने पर विचार करें, नहीं तो हम **मैडमस** जारी करेंगे,” **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** ने कहा।



'Periyar Tiger Reserve diverted funds without Kerala government's approval'

GS III: Environment

Sandeep Vellaram

IDUKKI

A recent report of the State Finance Inspection wing, operating under the Finance department, has exposed significant financial irregularities at the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Thekkady, Kerala.

The report, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Hindu*, reveals that PTR authorities established a "Park Welfare Fund" (PWF) in 2004 and subsequently diverted tourism-related income into it without the requisite government approval. Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal has reportedly approved the inspection's recommendations and for-



The tourist boat landing area at the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Thekkady in Idukki district of Kerala. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

warded the report to Forests Minister A.K. Saseendran for immediate action.

The detailed inspection was initiated at the request of Mr. Saseendran following a complaint filed in February 2024 by the Kerala

Non-Gazetted Employees Association (NGEA) regarding alleged financial mismanagement within the reserve.

Unauthorised fund

A core finding of the in-

spection is the unauthorised formation of the welfare fund. "The inspection revealed that there was no government order or direction to form the PWF."

The report highlights that "without a proper government order or rules, the entire tourism income was diverted to the park welfare fund, and its use was for purchases and other activities without proper rules." The report urged the Forest department to conduct an immediate verification and take swift action against the misuse of government funds. It also recommends a proper audit and an exploration of depositing a share of the income into the government treasury.

'Periyar Tiger Reserve diverted funds without Kerala government's approval'

'पेरियार टाइगर रिज़र्व ने केरल सरकार की मंजूरी के बिना फंड्स का दुरुपयोग किया'

- A recent report of the **State Finance Inspection wing**, operating under the **Finance department**, has exposed significant financial irregularities at the **Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in **Thekkady, Kerala**.
वित्त विभाग के अंतर्गत कार्यरत राज्य वित्त निरीक्षण विंग की हालिया रिपोर्ट ने केरल के थेक्कडी स्थित पेरियार टाइगर रिज़र्व (PTR) में बड़े वित्तीय अनियमितताओं का खुलासा किया है।
- The report, a copy of which has been obtained by **The Hindu**, reveals that **PTR authorities** established a "**Park Welfare Fund**" (PWF) in **2004** and subsequently diverted **tourism-related income** into it without the requisite **government approval**.
इस रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति **द हिंदू** को मिली है, जिसमें खुलासा हुआ है कि **PTR अधिकारियों** ने **2004** में एक "**पार्क वेलफेयर फंड**" (PWF) स्थापित किया और बाद में पर्यटन से संबंधित आय को इसमें **सरकारी मंजूरी** के बिना स्थानांतरित कर दिया।
- **Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal** has reportedly approved the inspection's recommendations and forwarded the report to **Forests Minister A.K. Saseendran** for immediate action.
वित्त मंत्री के.एन. बालगोपाल ने कथित तौर पर निरीक्षण की सिफारिशों को मंजूरी दी है और रिपोर्ट को **वन मंत्री ए.के. ससींद्रन** को तत्काल कार्रवाई के लिए भेज दिया है।
- The detailed inspection was initiated at the request of **Mr. Saseendran** following a **complaint filed in February 2024** by the **Kerala Non-Gazetted Employees Association (NGEA)** regarding alleged financial mismanagement within the reserve.
श्री ससींद्रन के अनुरोध पर यह विस्तृत निरीक्षण शुरू किया गया था। यह कदम **केरल नॉन-गज़ेटेड एम्प्लॉइज एसोसिएशन (NGEA)** द्वारा **फरवरी 2024** में रिज़र्व के भीतर कथित **वित्तीय कुप्रबंधन** की शिकायत दर्ज करने के बाद उठाया गया।



Unauthorised fund अनधिकृत फंड

- A core finding of the inspection is the **unauthorised formation** of the welfare fund. "The inspection revealed that there was no government order or direction to form the **PWF**." निरीक्षण की एक मुख्य खोज यह है कि वेलफेयर फंड का गठन अनधिकृत था। "निरीक्षण में यह खुलासा हुआ कि **PWF** बनाने के लिए कोई सरकारी आदेश या निर्देश नहीं था।"
- The report highlights that "without a proper **government order** or **rules**, the entire **tourism income** was diverted to the **park welfare fund**, and its use was for purchases and other activities without proper rules." रिपोर्ट में यह बताया गया है कि "बिना किसी सरकारी आदेश या नियमों के, पूरी पर्यटन आय को पार्क वेलफेयर फंड में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया और इसका उपयोग खरीदारी और अन्य गतिविधियों के लिए किया गया, वह भी बिना किसी उचित नियमों के।"
- The report urged the **Forest department** to conduct an **immediate verification** and take **swift action** against the **misuse of government funds**. रिपोर्ट ने वन विभाग से आग्रह किया कि वह तत्काल जांच करे और सरकारी फंड्स के दुरुपयोग के खिलाफ शीघ्र कार्रवाई करे।
- It also recommends a **proper audit** and an exploration of **depositing a share of the income** into the **government treasury**. इसमें यह भी सिफारिश की गई है कि उचित ऑडिट किया जाए और आय के एक हिस्से को सरकारी कोषागार में जमा करने पर विचार किया जाए।

EU-India partnership set for upgrade

EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas releases strategic agenda on trade, technology, security, defence and climate; however, India's military exercises with Russia and its continued purchase of Russian oil are seen in Brussels as potential obstacles to the deepening of the relationship with New Delhi

GS III: India - EU Trade
Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Union has set out a plan to upgrade its strategic ties with India, even as it warned that India's military exercises with Russia and its purchase of Russian oil are risks to the growing strategic ties between Brussels and New Delhi.

The European Commission and the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas released 'A New Strategic EU-India Agenda' on Wednesday in Brussels, and urged the European Parliament and Council (i.e., the heads of member states) to adopt it.

Ms. Kallas called India a "crucial" partner for the EU, as she outlined the strategy that encompassed trade, technology, security, defence and climate. She was speaking at a televised press conference in Brussels on Wednesday.

The document declared that "the EU and India have the potential and determination to shape one of the defining partner-

ships of the 21st century". Brussels and New Delhi are in the midst of negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA), with the EU's trade chief Maroš Šefčovič visiting New Delhi last week for talks with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

"We are also negotiating an agreement of exchange of classified information and deepening ties between defence industry [sic]," Ms. Kallas said, adding that there were hesitations here among the College of Commissioners (comprised of Commissioners from the 27 EU countries).

With Russia escalating its attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks, the Europeans are grappling with how to navigate New Delhi's closeness to Moscow.

"India's participation in Russia's military exercises and its purchase of Russian oil stand in the way of closer ties, because ultimately, our partnership is not only about trade, but also about defending rules-based international order," Ms. Kal-



The European Commission's High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas and European Commissioner for Trade Maroš Šefčovič at a press conference in Brussels, Belgium on Wednesday. REUTERS

las said.

"It is of utmost importance to the EU that any enablement of the war be curtailed," the strategy document says.

The negotiations with New Delhi would address these challenges with the aim of adopting a joint roadmap at the next EU-India summit in early 2026, according to Ms. Kallas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "delighted" by the adoption of the new strategic document. "We remain committed to an early and

peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict," he said, reflecting on his phone call on Wednesday with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. India and the EU have been seeking to bolster ties in the face of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and challenges in their trade relationships with the U.S.

Trade between India and the EU has grown over 90% in the last decade, Mr. Šefčovič said at Wednesday's press conference, but the two sides had just "scratched the surface",

according to the Commissioner. Brussels and New Delhi are hoping to conclude a trade deal by the end of the year.

Mr. Šefčovič said he was in frequent touch with Mr. Goyal but wished that there had been "more progress" on talks during his visit to New Delhi last week. He also said that Indian trade negotiators have a reputation for being "tough".

Tariff barriers

On the question of agricultural tariffs, Mr. Šefčovič said that the issue was not about numbers but rather about whether what was being offered was commercially meaningful, after taking into account tariff and non-tariff barriers. He cited India's Qualitative Control Orders (QCOs) as an example and said they were something the EU should consider in its negotiations.

The 14th round of trade talks is due to take place in Brussels from October 6-10.

Quizzed specifically on India's participation in the recent Zapad-2025 military exercises led by Russia, Ms. Kallas said she had spoken to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday. She reiterated that exercises with Russia and buying oil were issues to the relationship.

"The question is always whether we leave this void to be filled by somebody else. So we try to fill it ourselves," she said in response to the question on cooperation with India. She responded similarly, when quizzed on India's apparent détente with China.

The College of Commissioners had agreed that the EU should deepen ties with India to "not really push them into Russia's corner".

Ms. Kallas cited the principle of "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" several times, including when asked about how the trade talks would be impacted if India did not take on board the EU's concerns regarding Russia.

EU-India partnership set for upgrade ईयू-भारत साझेदारी उन्नयन के लिए तैयार



- EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas releases strategic agenda on trade, technology, security, defence and climate**; however, **India's military exercises with Russia** and its **continued purchase of Russian oil** are seen in **Brussels** as potential obstacles to the deepening of the relationship with **New Delhi**.

ईयू की शीर्ष राजनयिक काजा कैलास ने व्यापार, तकनीक, सुरक्षा, रक्षा और जलवायु पर रणनीतिक एजेंडा जारी किया; हालांकि, भारत के रूस के साथ सैन्य अभ्यास और रूसी तेल की निरंतर खरीद को ब्रसेल्स में नई दिल्ली के साथ संबंधों को गहरा करने में संभावित बाधाओं के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।
- The **European Union** has set out a plan to **upgrade its strategic ties with India**, even as it warned that India's military exercises with Russia and its purchase of Russian oil are risks to the growing strategic ties between **Brussels** and **New Delhi**.

यूरोपीय संघ ने भारत के साथ अपनी रणनीतिक साझेदारी को उन्नत करने की योजना पेश की है, साथ ही चेतावनी दी है कि भारत के रूस के साथ सैन्य अभ्यास और रूसी तेल की खरीद ब्रसेल्स और नई दिल्ली के बीच बढ़ते रणनीतिक संबंधों के लिए खतरा हैं।
- The **European Commission** and the EU's top diplomat **Kaja Kallas** released '**A New Strategic EU-India Agenda**' on Wednesday in **Brussels**, and urged the **European Parliament** and **Council** (i.e., the heads of member states) to adopt it.

यूरोपीय आयोग और ईयू की शीर्ष राजनयिक काजा कैलास ने बुधवार को ब्रसेल्स में 'ए न्यू स्ट्रैटेजिक ईयू-इंडिया एजेंडा' जारी किया और यूरोपीय संसद तथा काउंसिल (यानी सदस्य देशों के प्रमुख) से इसे अपनाने का आग्रह किया।
- Ms. Kallas** called **India** a "crucial" partner for the EU, as she outlined the strategy that encompassed **trade, technology, security, defence and climate**.

सुश्री कैलास ने भारत को ईयू के लिए एक "महत्वपूर्ण" भागीदार बताया और उस रणनीति का वर्णन किया जिसमें व्यापार, तकनीक, सुरक्षा, रक्षा और जलवायु शामिल हैं।
- She was speaking at a **televised press conference** in **Brussels** on Wednesday.

वह बुधवार को ब्रसेल्स में एक टेलीविज़न प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में बोल रही थीं।
- The document declared that "the **EU and India** have the potential and determination to shape one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century".

दस्तावेज़ में घोषणा की गई कि "ईयू और भारत में 21वीं सदी की सबसे महत्वपूर्ण साझेदारियों में से एक को आकार देने की क्षमता और दृढ़ संकल्प है।"
- Brussels** and **New Delhi** are in the midst of negotiating a **free trade agreement (FTA)**, with the EU's trade chief **Maroš Šefčovič** visiting **New Delhi** last week for talks with **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal**.

ब्रसेल्स और नई दिल्ली एक मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA) पर बातचीत कर रहे हैं। ईयू के व्यापार प्रमुख मारोश शेफकोविक ने पिछले सप्ताह नई दिल्ली का दौरा किया और वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल के साथ बातचीत की।
- "We are also negotiating an **agreement of exchange of classified information** and **deepening ties between defence industry [sic]**," Ms. Kallas said, adding that there were hesitations here among the **College of Commissioners** (composed of Commissioners from the 27 EU countries).

"हम गोपनीय जानकारी के आदान-प्रदान के समझौते और रक्षा उद्योगों के बीच संबंध गहरा करने पर भी बातचीत कर रहे हैं," सुश्री कैलास ने कहा और जोड़ा कि इस पर कॉलेज ऑफ कमिश्नर्स (27 ईयू देशों के कमिश्नरों का समूह) में हिचकिचाहट है।
- With **Russia** escalating its attacks on **Ukraine** in recent weeks, the **Europeans** are grappling with how to navigate **New Delhi's closeness to Moscow**.

हाल के हफ्तों में रूस द्वारा यूक्रेन पर हमलों को बढ़ाने के साथ, यूरोपीय देशों को यह तय करने में कठिनाई हो रही है कि नई दिल्ली के मास्को के साथ निकट संबंधों से कैसे निपटा जाए।
- "**India's participation in Russia's military exercises** and its **purchase of Russian oil** stand in the way of closer ties, because ultimately, our partnership is not only about trade, but also about defending **rules-based international order**," Ms. Kallas said.

"भारत का रूस के सैन्य अभ्यासों में भाग लेना और रूसी तेल की खरीद करीबी संबंधों के रास्ते में बाधा है, क्योंकि अंततः हमारी साझेदारी केवल व्यापार के बारे में नहीं है, बल्कि नियम-आधारित अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था की रक्षा के बारे में भी है," सुश्री कैलास ने कहा।
- "It is of utmost importance to the EU that any enablement of the war be curtailed," the **strategy document** says.



रणनीतिक दस्तावेज़ में कहा गया, "ईयू के लिए यह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है कि युद्ध को सक्षम बनाने वाली किसी भी गतिविधि को रोका जाए।"

- The **negotiations with New Delhi** would address these challenges with the aim of adopting a **joint roadmap** at the next **EU-India summit** in **early 2026**, according to **Ms. Kallas**.
सुश्री कैलास के अनुसार, **नई दिल्ली के साथ वार्ताएं** इन चुनौतियों को संबोधित करेंगी, जिसका लक्ष्य **2026** की शुरुआत में होने वाले अगले **ईयू-भारत शिखर सम्मेलन** में एक **साझा रोडमैप** अपनाना है।
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said he was "delighted" by the adoption of the new strategic document.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि वह नए रणनीतिक दस्तावेज़ को अपनाए जाने से "बहुत खुश" हैं।
- "We remain committed to an early and peaceful resolution of the **Ukraine conflict**," he said, reflecting on his phone call on Wednesday with **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen**.
उन्होंने कहा, "हम **यूक्रेन संघर्ष** के शीघ्र और शांतिपूर्ण समाधान के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं," यह बुधवार को **यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन** के साथ उनकी फोन कॉल पर आधारित था।
- **India and the EU** have been seeking to **bolster ties** in the face of increasing **geopolitical uncertainty** and **challenges** in their **trade relationships with the U.S.**
भारत और ईयू बढ़ती **भू-राजनीतिक अनिश्चितता** और **अमेरिका के साथ उनके व्यापारिक संबंधों में चुनौतियों** के बीच अपने संबंधों को **मजबूत** करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।
- **Trade between India and the EU** has grown over **90% in the last decade**, **Mr. Šefčovič** said at Wednesday's press conference, but the two sides had just "scratched the surface", according to the Commissioner.
श्री शेफकोविक ने बुधवार की प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा कि **भारत और ईयू के बीच व्यापार पिछले दशक में 90% से अधिक बढ़ा** है, लेकिन कमिश्नर के अनुसार, दोनों पक्षों ने अभी केवल "सतह को छुआ" है।
- **Brussels and New Delhi** are hoping to conclude a **trade deal** by the **end of the year**.
ब्रसेल्स और नई दिल्ली इस साल के अंत तक एक **व्यापार समझौता** पूरा करने की उम्मीद कर रहे हैं।
- **Mr. Šefčovič** said he was in frequent touch with **Mr. Goyal** but wished that there had been "more progress" on talks during his visit to **New Delhi last week**.
श्री शेफकोविक ने कहा कि वह **श्री गोयल** के साथ लगातार संपर्क में थे लेकिन चाहते थे कि पिछले सप्ताह **नई दिल्ली की उनकी यात्रा** के दौरान बातचीत में "अधिक प्रगति" होती।
- He also said that **Indian trade negotiators** have a reputation for being "tough".
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **भारतीय व्यापार वार्ताकारों** की पहचान "कठिन" होने के लिए है।

Tariff barriers

शुल्क अवरोध

- On the question of **agricultural tariffs**, **Mr. Šefčovič** said that the issue was not about numbers but rather about whether what was being offered was **commercially meaningful**, after taking into account **tariff and non-tariff barriers**.
कृषि शुल्क के प्रश्न पर, **श्री शेफकोविक** ने कहा कि यह मुद्दा संख्याओं के बारे में नहीं है बल्कि इस बारे में है कि **शुल्क और गैर-शुल्क अवरोधों** को ध्यान में रखते हुए जो पेशकश की जा रही है वह **व्यावसायिक रूप से सार्थक** है या नहीं।
- He cited **India's Qualitative Control Orders (QCOs)** as an example and said they were something the **EU** should consider in its negotiations.
उन्होंने **भारत के क्वालिटेटिव कंट्रोल ऑर्डर्स (QCOs)** का उदाहरण दिया और कहा कि **ईयू** को अपनी वार्ताओं में इन्हें ध्यान में रखना चाहिए।
- The **14th round of trade talks** is due to take place in **Brussels** from **October 6-10**.
14वां दौर व्यापार वार्ता 6-10 अक्टूबर को **ब्रसेल्स** में होने वाला है।
- Quizzed specifically on **India's participation in the recent Zapad-2025 military exercises led by Russia**, **Ms. Kallas** said she had spoken to **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** on Tuesday.
रूस द्वारा संचालित हालिया ज़ापद-2025 सैन्य अभ्यास में भारत की भागीदारी पर विशेष रूप से पूछे जाने पर, **सुश्री कैलास** ने कहा कि उन्होंने मंगलवार को **विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर** से बात की।
- She reiterated that **exercises with Russia and buying oil** were issues to the relationship.
उन्होंने दोहराया कि **रूस के साथ अभ्यास और तेल खरीद संबंधों** के लिए मुद्दे हैं।



- "The question is always whether we leave this void to be filled by somebody else. So we try to fill it ourselves," she said in response to the question on cooperation with India.
भारत के साथ सहयोग पर पूछे गए प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा, "सवाल हमेशा यह होता है कि क्या हम इस खाली जगह को किसी और के लिए छोड़ देते हैं। इसलिए हम इसे खुद भरने की कोशिश करते हैं।"
- She responded similarly, when quizzed on **India's apparent détente with China**.
भारत के चीन के साथ स्पष्ट शांति संबंधों पर पूछे जाने पर उन्होंने इसी तरह का जवाब दिया।
- The **College of Commissioners** had agreed that the **EU** should deepen ties with **India** to "not really push them into **Russia's corner**".
कॉलेज ऑफ कमिश्नर्स ने सहमति जताई कि ईयू को भारत के साथ संबंध गहराने चाहिए ताकि उन्हें वास्तव में रूस के पाले में न धकेला जाए।
- **Ms. Kallas** cited the principle of '**nothing is agreed until everything is agreed**' several times, including when asked about how the **trade talks** would be impacted if **India** did not take on board the **EU's concerns regarding Russia**.
सुश्री कैलास ने कई बार 'कुछ भी तब तक सहमति नहीं है जब तक सब कुछ सहमति में न हो' के सिद्धांत का हवाला दिया, जिसमें यह भी शामिल था जब उनसे पूछा गया कि यदि भारत रूस के संबंध में ईयू की चिंताओं को ध्यान में नहीं रखता तो व्यापार वार्ता पर इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

IN BRIEF



GS III: Species

First batch of *hilsa* fish from Bangladesh reaches India

The first consignment of Bangladeshi *hilsa* fish has reached India from the neighbouring country ahead of Durga Puja. Due to high demand during the festive season, Bangladesh has approved the export of 1,200 tonnes of *hilsa*, though there is a ban on its export. "Ten trucks of 50 tonnes of *hilsa* have come in through the Petrapole border on Wednesday. We will dispatch them by 6 p.m. in the evening. They will be available in Kolkata and Howrah markets by Thursday morning," Fish Importers' Association Secretary Syed Anwar Maqsood told *The Hindu* on Wednesday. The export to India will be conducted between September 16 and October 5 .

- The export to **India** will be conducted between **September 16 and October 5**.
भारत को निर्यात 16 सितंबर से 5 अक्टूबर के बीच किया जाएगा।

First batch of hilsa fish from Bangladesh reaches India बांग्लादेश से हिलसा मछली की पहली खेप भारत पहुंची

- The first consignment of **Bangladeshi hilsa fish** has reached **India** from the neighbouring country ahead of **Durga Puja**.
दुर्गा पूजा से पहले पड़ोसी देश से बांग्लादेशी हिलसा मछली की पहली खेप भारत पहुंच गई है।
- Due to **high demand** during the festive season, **Bangladesh** has approved the **export of 1,200 tonnes of hilsa**, though there is a **ban on its export**.
त्योहारी सीजन के दौरान उच्च मांग के कारण, बांग्लादेश ने 1,200 टन हिलसा के निर्यात को मंजूरी दी है, हालांकि इस पर निर्यात प्रतिबंध है।
- "Ten trucks of **50 tonnes of hilsa** came in through the **Petrapole border** on Wednesday.
"50 टन हिलसा से भरे दस ट्रक बुधवार को पेट्रापोल सीमा से आए हैं।
- We will dispatch them by **6 p.m. in the evening**.
हम इन्हें शाम 6 बजे तक भेज देंगे।
- They will be available in **Kolkata and Howrah markets** by **Thursday morning**," **Fish Importers' Association Secretary Syed Anwar Maqsood** told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.
फिश इंपोर्टर्स एसोसिएशन के सचिव सैयद अनवर मकसूद ने बुधवार को द हिंदू को बताया, "वे गुरुवार सुबह तक कोलकाता और हावड़ा बाजारों में उपलब्ध होंगे।"



CAG developing LLM for accurate auditing, efficiency

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) is developing a large language model (LLM) to help auditors access decades of institutional knowledge, thereby improving efficiency and consistency in audit analysis using the system powered by artificial intelligence.

The system's first version is expected to be ready by November.

Previous inspection reports will be used to train the model. The LLM will strengthen institutional capabilities in analysing large datasets, generating documents, including inspection reports, identifying patterns and risks with more accuracy, and assisting auditors in preparing comprehensive reports. Digitisation process at the Centre and States will soon facilitate remote or hybrid audits of most government agencies and departments.

The transition is anchored in risk-based planning, secure access to government platforms, and the use of geospatial tools, including PM GatiShakti, to strengthen evidence and consistency across sectors, a release said.



The AI system will help auditors access decades of institutional knowledge.

"The pilot studies of remote audits in many audit domains have been concluded, and they are now being replicated across offices. Remote audits in receipts audits are advancing faster due to higher automation, richer and standardised data. Similarly, PAG [Principal Accountant General] (Audit) Telangana's remote compliance audit of the Stamps and Registration Department demonstrates successful office-based scrutiny with real-time coordination," the CAG's release said.

The CAG has also developed the 'Connect Portal', it will provide 10 lakh auditee entities with a unified digital interface, the site is to be launched during the Annual Conference of State Finance Secretaries to be held on September 19.

CAG developing LLM for accurate auditing, efficiency
सटीक ऑडिटिंग और दक्षता के लिए CAG LLM विकसित कर रहा है

- The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) is developing a large language model (LLM) to help auditors access decades of institutional knowledge, thereby improving efficiency and consistency in audit analysis using the system powered by artificial intelligence.

नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) बड़ा भाषा मॉडल (LLM) विकसित कर रहा है ताकि ऑडिटर्स को दशकों के संस्थागत ज्ञान तक पहुंचने में मदद मिल सके, जिससे कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता से संचालित इस प्रणाली का उपयोग करके ऑडिट विश्लेषण में दक्षता और संगतता में सुधार हो।

- The system's first version is expected to be ready by November. इस प्रणाली का पहला संस्करण नवंबर तक तैयार होने की उम्मीद है।

- Previous inspection reports will be used to train the model.

मॉडल को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए पिछले निरीक्षण रिपोर्टों का उपयोग किया जाएगा।

- The LLM will strengthen institutional capabilities in analysing large datasets, generating documents including inspection reports, identifying patterns and risks with more accuracy, and assisting auditors in preparing comprehensive reports.

एलएलएम (LLM) बड़े डेटा सेट का विश्लेषण, निरीक्षण रिपोर्ट सहित दस्तावेज तैयार करना, पैटर्न और जोखिमों की अधिक सटीक पहचान और ऑडिटर्स को व्यापक रिपोर्ट तैयार करने में मदद करके संस्थागत क्षमताओं को मजबूत करेगा।

- The digitisation process at the Centre and States will soon facilitate remote or hybrid audits of most government agencies and departments.

केंद्र और राज्यों में डिजिटलीकरण प्रक्रिया जल्द ही अधिकांश सरकारी एजेंसियों और विभागों के रिमोट या हाइब्रिड ऑडिट को सक्षम करेगी।

- The transition is anchored in risk-based planning, secure access to government platforms, and the use of geospatial tools, including PM GatiShakti, to strengthen evidence and consistency across sectors, a release said.

यह बदलाव जोखिम-आधारित योजना, सरकारी प्लेटफॉर्म तक सुरक्षित पहुंच, और पीएम गति शक्ति सहित भौगोलिक उपकरणों के उपयोग पर आधारित है ताकि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में साक्ष्य और संगतता को



- मजबूत किया जा सके, एक विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया।
- “The **pilot studies of remote audits** in many audit domains have been concluded, and they are now being replicated across offices.
कई ऑडिट क्षेत्रों में रिमोट ऑडिट्स के पायलट अध्ययन पूरे हो गए हैं और अब उन्हें कार्यालयों में लागू किया जा रहा है।
 - **Remote audits in receipts audits** are advancing faster due to **higher automation, richer and standardised data**.
रसीद ऑडिट्स में रिमोट ऑडिट्स अधिक स्वचालन, समृद्ध और मानकीकृत डेटा के कारण तेजी से प्रगति कर रहे हैं।
 - Similarly, **PAG (Principal Accountant General) (Audit) Telangana’s remote compliance audit of the Stamps and Registration Department** demonstrates successful **office-based scrutiny with real-time coordination**,” the **CAG’s release** said.
इसी तरह, प्रिंसिपल एकाउंटेंट जनरल (ऑडिट) तेलंगाना का स्टैम्स और पंजीकरण विभाग का रिमोट अनुपालन ऑडिट रियल-टाइम समन्वय के साथ कार्यालय आधारित जांच की सफलता को दर्शाता है,” **CAG की विज्ञप्ति** में कहा गया।
 - The **CAG** has also developed the ‘**Connect Portal**’, it will provide **10 lakh auditee entities** with a **unified digital interface**, the site is to be launched during the **Annual Conference of State Finance Secretaries** to be held on **September 19**.
CAG ने ‘कनेक्ट पोर्टल’ भी विकसित किया है, यह **10 लाख ऑडिटी संस्थाओं को एकीकृत डिजिटल इंटरफेस** प्रदान करेगा, इस साइट को **19 सितंबर** को होने वाले **राज्य वित्त सचिवों के वार्षिक सम्मेलन** के दौरान लॉन्च किया जाएगा।

Ahead of COP30, major emitters delay update on climate goals; EU yet to finalise consensus

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
COPENHAGEN

Ahead of the 30th edition of the climate talks scheduled in Belem, Brazil, in November, major emitters appear to be dithering on declaring updated climate goals. Only 29 out of 195 countries have so far submitted their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). These are voluntary targets, updated every five years by countries to regulate fossil fuel emissions. So far, all countries that are signatory to the United Nations climate convention have submitted NDCs detailing emission targets upto 2030.

The European Union, a bloc of 27 member nations, and historically the group that has been a leader in advocating that countries undertake ambitious cuts to fossil fuel production, is



Activists hold a march for climate justice, ahead of the COP30 summit to be hosted in Belem in Brazil. REUTERS

yet to evolve a consensus among its member countries on what their NDCs should be.

EU members are set to vote this week on two climate agreements. One of them is an internal, legally binding commitment to reduce emissions by 90% by 2040, and be on the path to carbon neutrality by 2050. The other is to agree on a 2035 target, to time

with the NDC requirements of COP30 (30th Conference of Parties).

The Hindu has learnt from multiple sources familiar with the EU’s climate negotiations that there was “disagreement” among its member countries that were yet to be ironed out, with some major EU member countries, including France and Germany, preferring that a

vote on the matter be postponed.

They indicated, however, that the EU would announce its updated NDC before COP30 commences on November 10.

Andre Lago, COP President and veteran Brazilian diplomat, said that this would be an “implementation” COP rather than stressing on a headline-grabbing cover text to signal forward movement on ambition. New coalitions on a leadership role appear to be forming.

While the U.S.’s Democratic Party-led administrations have historically been an ally to the European Union’s climate goals, the changed political climate in the U.S. has seen the EU look elsewhere for support.

This July, the EU and China released a joint statement on climate that the Paris Agreement was

the “cornerstone of international climate cooperation”, and that they were “committed to... submitting before COP30 their respective 2035 NDCs covering all economic sectors and all greenhouse gases and in alignment with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement”.

The 2015 Paris Agreement, which 195 countries have ratified, requires countries to submit updated NDCs every five years to show the steps undertaken by them to keep average temperatures from rising, “as far as possible”, above 1.5 degree Celsius by the end of the century, and certainly below 2 degree Celsius. Countries were to submit their NDCs in February but have an official deadline of September 30.

India is yet to declare its updated NDC though it has said it is working on it.



Ahead of COP30, major emitters delay update on climate goals; EU yet to finalise consensus

COP30 से पहले, प्रमुख उत्सर्जक जलवायु लक्ष्यों के अपडेट में देरी कर रहे हैं; ईयू अभी सहमति पर नहीं पहुंचा है

- Ahead of the **30th edition** of the **climate talks** scheduled in **Belem, Brazil**, in **November**, major emitters appear to be dithering on declaring updated **climate goals**.
नवंबर में बेलेम, ब्राज़ील में निर्धारित जलवायु वार्ताओं के 30वें संस्करण से पहले, प्रमुख उत्सर्जक अद्यतन जलवायु लक्ष्यों की घोषणा में हिचकिचाते हुए दिखाई दे रहे हैं।
- Only **29 out of 195 countries** have so far submitted their updated **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**.
अब तक 195 देशों में से केवल 29 देशों ने अपने अद्यतन राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDC) प्रस्तुत किए हैं।
- These are **voluntary targets**, updated every **five years** by countries to regulate **fossil fuel emissions**.
ये **स्वैच्छिक लक्ष्य** हैं, जिन्हें देश पांच साल में एक बार **जीवाश्म ईंधन उत्सर्जन** को नियंत्रित करने के लिए अपडेट करते हैं।
- So far, all countries that are signatory to the **United Nations climate convention** have submitted **NDCs** detailing **emission targets** upto **2030**.
अब तक, सभी देश जो **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु सम्मेलन** के हस्ताक्षरकर्ता हैं, उन्होंने **2030 तक के उत्सर्जन लक्ष्यों** का विवरण देते हुए **NDCs** प्रस्तुत किए हैं।
- The **European Union (EU)**, a bloc of **27 member nations**, and historically the group that has been a leader in advocating that countries undertake ambitious cuts to **fossil fuel production**, is yet to evolve a **consensus** among its member countries on what their **NDCs** should be.
यूरोपीय संघ (EU), जो **27 सदस्य देशों** का समूह है और ऐतिहासिक रूप से **जीवाश्म ईंधन उत्पादन** में महत्वाकांक्षी कटौती की वकालत करने में अग्रणी रहा है, अभी तक अपने सदस्य देशों के बीच इस पर **सहमति** नहीं बना पाया है कि उनके **NDCs** क्या होने चाहिए।
- **EU members** are set to **vote this week** on **two climate agreements**.
EU सदस्य इस सप्ताह **दो जलवायु समझौतों** पर **मतदान** करने वाले हैं।
- One of them is an **internal, legally binding commitment** to **reduce emissions by 90% by 2040**, and be on the path to **carbon neutrality by 2050**.
इनमें से एक **आंतरिक, कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी प्रतिबद्धता** है, जिसमें **2040 तक 90% उत्सर्जन में कटौती** और **2050 तक कार्बन तटस्थता** प्राप्त करने का लक्ष्य है।
- The other is to agree on a **2035 target**, to meet the **NDC requirements of COP30 (30th Conference of Parties)**.
दूसरा **2035 के लक्ष्य** पर सहमत होने के लिए है, ताकि **COP 30 (30वां पक्षों का सम्मेलन)** की **NDC आवश्यकताओं** के अनुरूप हो सके।
- The Hindu has learnt from multiple sources familiar with the EU's climate negotiations that there was **"disagreement"** among its member countries that were yet to be ironed out, with some major **EU member countries**, including **France** and **Germany**, preferring that a **vote** on the matter be **postponed**.
द हिंदू ने कई स्रोतों से सीखा है जो EU की जलवायु वार्ताओं से परिचित हैं कि इसके सदस्य देशों के बीच अभी भी **"असहमति"** है, जिसमें **फ्रांस** और **जर्मनी** सहित कुछ प्रमुख **EU सदस्य देशों** ने इस मामले पर **मतदान को स्थगित** करने को प्राथमिकता दी है।
- They indicated, however, that the **EU** would announce its **updated NDC** before **COP30** commences on **November 10**.
हालांकि, उन्होंने संकेत दिया कि **EU** अपने **अद्यतन NDC** की घोषणा **10 नवंबर** को **COP30** शुरू होने से पहले कर देगा।
- **Andre Lago**, **COP President** and veteran **Brazilian diplomat**, said that this would be an **"implementation COP"** rather than stressing on a headline-grabbing cover text to signal forward movement on ambition.
आंद्रे लागो, **COP अध्यक्ष** और वरिष्ठ **ब्राज़ीलियाई राजनयिक**, ने कहा कि यह एक **"कार्यान्वयन COP"** होगा, न कि महत्वाकांक्षा पर आगे बढ़ने का संकेत देने के लिए सुर्खियां बटोरने वाले कवर टेक्स्ट पर जोर देने वाला।



- New **coalitions on a leadership role** appear to be forming.
नई नेतृत्व भूमिका पर गठबंधन बनते हुए प्रतीत हो रहे हैं।
- While the **U.S.'s Democratic Party-led administrations** have historically been an ally to the **European Union's climate goals**, the **changed political climate** in the **U.S.** has seen the **EU** look elsewhere for support.
जहां अमेरिका की डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी नेतृत्व वाली प्रशासनिक इकाइयां ऐतिहासिक रूप से यूरोपीय संघ के जलवायु लक्ष्यों की सहयोगी रही हैं, वहीं अमेरिका में बदले हुए राजनीतिक माहौल के कारण EU को समर्थन के लिए अन्यत्र देखना पड़ा है।
- This **July**, the **EU and China** released a **joint statement** on climate that the **Paris Agreement** was the “**cornerstone of international climate cooperation**”, and that they were “**committed to... submitting before COP30 their respective 2035 NDCs covering all economic sectors and all greenhouse gases and in alignment with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement**”.
इस जुलाई में, EU और चीन ने जलवायु पर एक संयुक्त बयान जारी किया कि पेरिस समझौता “अंतरराष्ट्रीय जलवायु सहयोग की आधारशिला” है, और वे “COP30 से पहले अपने-अपने 2035 NDC प्रस्तुत करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं, जो सभी आर्थिक क्षेत्रों और सभी ग्रीनहाउस गैसों को कवर करेंगे और पेरिस समझौते के दीर्घकालिक तापमान लक्ष्य के अनुरूप होंगे”।
- The **2015 Paris Agreement**, which **195 countries** have ratified, requires countries to submit **updated NDCs every five years** to show the steps undertaken by them to **keep average temperatures** from rising, “**as far as possible**”, above **1.5 degree Celsius** by the end of the century, and certainly below **2 degree Celsius**.
2015 का पेरिस समझौता, जिसे **195 देशों** ने अनुमोदित किया है, देशों से यह अपेक्षा करता है कि वे **हर पांच साल में अद्यतन NDCs प्रस्तुत करें**, जिससे यह दिखाया जा सके कि उन्होंने **औसत तापमान** को सदी के अंत तक **1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस** से अधिक बढ़ने से “**यथासंभव**” रोकने और निश्चित रूप से **2 डिग्री सेल्सियस** से नीचे रखने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए हैं।
- Countries were to submit their **NDCs** in **February** but have an **official deadline of September 30**.
देशों को अपने **NDCs** **फरवरी** में प्रस्तुत करने थे, लेकिन उनकी **आधिकारिक समय सीमा 30 सितंबर** है।
- **India** is yet to declare its updated **NDC** though it has said it is working on it.
भारत ने अभी तक अपना अद्यतन **NDC** घोषित नहीं किया है, हालांकि उसने कहा है कि वह इस पर काम कर रहा है।



Top court seeks CBI probe into tiger poaching ring

GS III: Environment

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Union government, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and State of Maharashtra to explain the presence of a well-organised, transnational poaching syndicate threatening the survival of India's tigers in their own heartlands of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai took serious note of a writ petition filed by petitioner-advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal who highlighted the report of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Maharashtra government which has unearthed the existence of a well-oiled network of tiger poachers and international traffickers in the big cat's body parts and wildlife tro-

The petition referred to media reports of poaching gangs in central India catering to a clientele in the Southeast Asia region

phies in violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

India is home to more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population. Both Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh host some of the most critical tiger reserves and corridors. The court has also issued formal notice to the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The petition referred to media reports of poaching gangs in central India catering to clientele in Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, and providing illegal products such as 'bone glue' made by pressure-cooking tiger

bones and prized in Southeast Asia as a traditional remedy. Mr. Bansal has sought a CBI investigation into the inter-State menace of poaching.

"The case reveals a massive financial trail involving hawala operations and cross-border smuggling, thereby raising issues not only of environmental concern but also of national security and international obligations. By its very nature, the case goes beyond the jurisdiction of any single State or forest department and calls for the involvement of investigative agencies," the petition submitted.

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, a Central government agency, had issued a "red alert" in February to field directors of tiger reserves across the country, urging them to intensify patrolling to stop poaching of big cats.

Top court seeks CBI probe into tiger poaching ring शीर्ष अदालत ने बाघों के शिकार गिरोह की CBI जांच की मांग की

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Union government, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and State of Maharashtra to explain the presence of a well-organised, transnational poaching syndicate threatening the survival of India's tigers in their own heartlands of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

बुधवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार, केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (CBI) और महाराष्ट्र राज्य से एक संगठित, अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिकार सिंडिकेट की मौजूदगी पर स्पष्टीकरण मांगा, जो महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश के अपने ही क्षेत्रों में भारत के बाघों के अस्तित्व को खतरे में डाल रहा है।



- A Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai took serious note of a writ petition filed by petitioner-advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal who highlighted the report of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Maharashtra government which has unearthed the existence of a well-oiled network of tiger poachers and international traffickers in the big cat's body parts and wildlife trophies in violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश बी.आर. गवई की पीठ ने याचिकाकर्ता-एडवोकेट गौरव कुमार बंसल द्वारा दायर एक रिट याचिका पर गंभीरता से संज्ञान लिया, जिसमें उन्होंने महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा गठित विशेष जांच दल (SIT) की रिपोर्ट को उजागर किया। इस रिपोर्ट में बाघ शिकारी और अंतरराष्ट्रीय तस्करों के एक संगठित नेटवर्क का खुलासा हुआ है, जो वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 का उल्लंघन करते हुए बाघों के अंगों और वन्यजीव ट्रॉफियों का व्यापार कर रहे हैं।
- India is home to more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population.

भारत में दुनिया की जंगली बाघ आबादी का 70% से अधिक निवास करता है।
- Both Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh host some of the most critical tiger reserves and corridors.

महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश में कुछ सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बाघ अभयारण्य और गलियारे स्थित हैं।
- The court has also issued formal notice to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

अदालत ने राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (NTCA) को भी औपचारिक नोटिस जारी किया है।
- The petition referred to media reports of poaching gangs in central India catering to clientele in Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, and providing illegal products such as 'bone glue' made by pressure-cooking tiger bones and prized in Southeast Asia as a traditional remedy.

याचिका में मध्य भारत में सक्रिय शिकार गिरोहों की मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स का उल्लेख किया गया, जो म्यांमार सहित दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई देशों के ग्राहकों को अवैध उत्पाद उपलब्ध कराते हैं, जैसे कि बाघ की हड्डियों को प्रेशर-कुकिंग करके बनाई जाने वाली 'बोन ग्लू', जिसे दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में एक पारंपरिक औषधि के रूप में मूल्यवान माना जाता है।
- Mr. Bansal has sought a CBI investigation into the inter-State menace of poaching.

श्री बंसल ने शिकार की अंतरराज्यीय समस्या की CBI जांच की मांग की है।
- "The case reveals a massive financial trail involving hawala operations and cross-border smuggling, thereby raising issues not only of environmental concern but also of national security and international obligations.

"मामले में हवाला ऑपरेशन्स और सीमा-पार तस्करी से जुड़े बड़े वित्तीय लेन-देन का खुलासा हुआ है, जिससे न केवल पर्यावरण संबंधी चिंता बल्कि राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और अंतरराष्ट्रीय दायित्वों से जुड़े मुद्दे भी उठते हैं।"
- By its very nature, the case goes beyond the jurisdiction of any single State or forest department and calls for the involvement of investigative agencies," the petition submitted.

"अपने स्वरूप में, यह मामला किसी एक राज्य या वन विभाग के अधिकार क्षेत्र से परे है और इसमें जांच एजेंसियों की भागीदारी आवश्यक है," याचिका में कहा गया।
- The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, a Central government agency, had issued a "red alert" in February to field directors of tiger reserves across the country, urging them to intensify patrolling to stop poaching of big cats.

वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो, जो केंद्र सरकार की एजेंसी है, ने फरवरी में देशभर के बाघ अभयारण्य क्षेत्र निदेशकों को "रेड अलर्ट" जारी किया और बड़े बिल्लियों के शिकार को रोकने के लिए गश्त बढ़ाने का आग्रह किया।

Crosstalk: waning immunity against Japanese encephalitis worsens dengue

The Japanese encephalitis virus and dengue virus belong to the same genus; previous research had hinted at interactions between JEV immunity and dengue outcomes; to understand more, a new study examined three large dengue outbreaks in Dharan, Nepal, between 2019 and 2023

GS in SAT
Puneet Kumar
Vipin M. Vashishtha

Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever are an increasing threat to global health. Rapid urbanisation and climate change have created ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed – while expanding global travel has accelerated the spread of these infections to new regions and populations.

A new study published last week has now added an unexpected twist to this story. Researchers have found that waning immunity against infections of the Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) can predispose individuals to more severe dengue. The finding highlights the complex interplay between related viruses and suggests a potential strategy to beat severe dengue through timely booster doses of the JE vaccine.

Both Japanese encephalitis virus and dengue virus belong to the same genus, *Orthoflavivirus*. Previous research had hinted at interactions between JEV immunity and dengue outcomes. To understand more, the present study, involving researchers from Singapore, Nepal, and the U.S., examined three large dengue outbreaks in Dharan in Nepal between 2019 and 2023.

Nepal provided a unique setting: the country has high population immunity against JE due to a successful vaccination programme launched in 2006 – yet until recently, it had very limited exposure to dengue. This made it possible to study how JEV immunity alone might influence dengue outcomes. Prior exposure to dengue itself is known to increase the risk of severe disease through antibody-dependent enhancement: where antibodies from a first infection facilitate viral entry during subsequent infections.

But in Nepal's largely dengue-naïve population, the impact of JEV immunity could be specifically isolated.

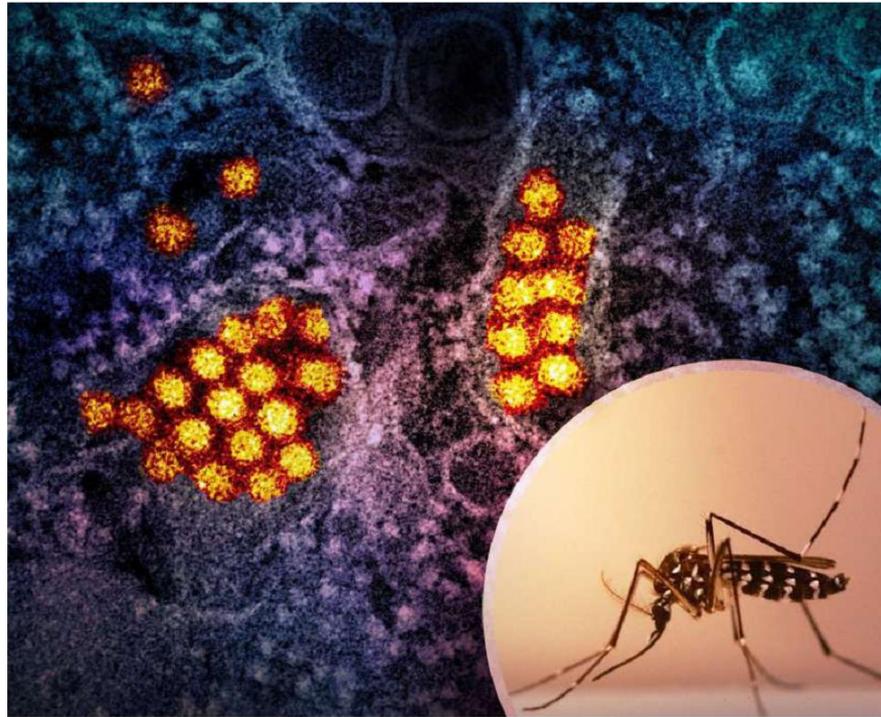
Striking results

For the study, the research team recruited dengue patients aged 15 to 65 years early in their illness, i.e. within three days of fever onset, confirmed by rapid diagnostic tests (NSI or DENV IgM). The study spanned five years and included three major dengue outbreaks, in 2019, 2022, and 2023. In total, 546 patients were enrolled and their blood samples were tested for viral serotypes, immune markers, and a biomarker called chymase. Chymase is an enzyme released by mast cells during inflammation, and it has been consistently validated in earlier studies as a marker of severe dengue. Its levels have been found to be elevated during both the acute and defervescence phases of the illness.

The findings, published in *Science Translational Medicine* on September 3, were striking.

Approximately 61% of patients had pre-existing antibodies that neutralised JEV, reflecting Nepal's relatively high level of immunity against JEV. Individuals with confirmed JEV immunity showed significantly higher concentrations of chymase compared to JEV-naïve patients.

Further analysis revealed that this effect was primarily associated with mid-range – not too low, not too high – anti-JEV antibody titres of 1:160. Patients with these titres had significantly higher



An *Aedes* mosquito and a colourised transmission electron micrograph of dengue virus particles (yellow). *Aedes* mosquitoes are known to transmit the dengue virus. CDC, NIAID

chymase levels compared to those with titres of 1:10 or 1:40. Notably, this correlation was not observed when anti-JEV ELISA titres were used, possibly reflecting cross-reactivity between DENV-specific antibodies and JEV in ELISA-based assays.

The association between mid-range JEV neutralising antibody titres and severe dengue was also reflected in clinical outcomes. The fraction of patients diagnosed with either dengue fever with warning signs or severe dengue, according to the WHO classification, was significantly higher among those with titres of 1:160 compared to patients without JEV immunity.

These individuals had a 3x higher risk of developing dengue fever with warning signs. Importantly, most participants were experiencing primary dengue infections, with only 7-10% showing evidence of prior exposure.

These findings isolated the role of JEV immunity in shaping disease outcomes. Even after excluding cases of secondary dengue, the results remained unchanged, strongly supporting the conclusion that JEV immunity alone is sufficient to modulate dengue severity, independent of prior DENV exposure.

Echoes from other flaviviruses

These findings echo earlier observations in studies of Zika and dengue viruses, where moderate antibody levels sometimes enhanced the viral infection of immune cells and worsened disease – while very high titres were protective. This is to say, as antibody levels wane over time, populations may enter a vulnerable “middle zone” in which

Rising temperatures and extended monsoons have caused the epidemiology of dengue fever to change rapidly, with increasingly larger outbreaks in areas where there used to be only sporadic cases. Such regions include India, which is also facing similar levels of climate change

immunity is insufficient to protect but strong enough to enhance disease.

The implications are significant for Asia, where JEV vaccination is common and dengue is spreading, and for the complex and connected nature of public health in a globalised world.

Specifically, the study showed that rising temperature and extended monsoons have caused the epidemiology of dengue fever to change rapidly, with increasingly bigger outbreaks in areas where there used to be only sporadic cases. Such regions include India, which is also facing similar kinds and levels of climate change. Thus, the authors suggest, the country needs to be ready with appropriate strategies to deal with the new challenges that will sprout as a result.

Second, while the study clearly showed that moderate titres of neutralising antibodies against JEV can worsen outcomes with dengue fever, it does not undermine the importance of JE vaccination *per se*. Such vaccination has successfully lowered the incidence of JE in the population.

The findings of previous studies have shown that the titres of neutralising

antibodies against JEV wane after a few years of vaccination. After five years, for example, only around 63% of vaccinated individuals still have neutralising antibodies against JEV. Thus, the new study strongly suggests the need for suitably timed JE vaccine boosters, which could serve the dual purpose of maintaining durable immunity against JE for longer periods and protecting the population against the risk of dengue fever with warning signs and severe dengue (due to waning titres of anti-JEV antibodies).

Third, the study reinforces the importance of chymase as a biomarker of dengue fever with warning signs and severe dengue, making it a convenient tool for physicians handling the uncertain trajectories of dengue fever.

Viruses respect no borders. The new study provides critical insights into how waning immunity against one flavivirus can worsen outcomes of another. Strategically timed JE boosters could be a valuable tool not just in sustaining protection against encephalitis but also in mitigating the severity of dengue – a disease whose burden is rising sharply across Asia.

Such remarkable work ultimately underscores the importance of integrated, forward-looking approaches in infectious disease control, with insights that could save countless lives.

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Crosstalk: waning immunity against Japanese encephalitis worsens dengue क्रॉसटॉक: जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस के खिलाफ घटती प्रतिरक्षा डेंगू को और खराब करती है

- The **Japanese encephalitis virus** and **dengue virus** belong to the same **genus**; previous research had hinted at **interactions** between **JEV immunity** and **dengue outcomes**; to understand more, a new study examined three large **dengue outbreaks** in **Dharan, Nepal**, between **2019 and 2023**.
- **जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस वायरस** और **डेंगू वायरस** एक ही वंश (**genus**) से संबंधित हैं; पिछले शोध में **JEV प्रतिरक्षा** और **डेंगू परिणामों** के बीच **परस्पर प्रभाव (interactions)** का संकेत दिया गया था; अधिक समझने के लिए, एक नए अध्ययन ने **2019 और 2023** के बीच **नेपाल के धरान** में तीन बड़े **डेंगू प्रकोपों** की जांच की।

Mosquito-borne diseases and dengue study मच्छर जनित रोग और डेंगू अध्ययन

- Mosquito-borne diseases such as **dengue fever** are an increasing threat to global health.
मच्छर जनित रोग जैसे **डेंगू बुखार** वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य के लिए बढ़ता हुआ खतरा हैं।
- **Rapid urbanisation** and **climate change** have created ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed — while **expanding global travel** has accelerated the spread of these infections to new regions and populations.
तेज़ शहरीकरण और **जलवायु परिवर्तन** ने मच्छरों के प्रजनन के लिए आदर्श परिस्थितियाँ बनाई हैं — जबकि **वैश्विक यात्रा का विस्तार** इन संक्रमणों को नए क्षेत्रों और जनसंख्या तक फैलाने में तेजी लाया है।
- A new study published last week has now added an **unexpected twist** to this story.
पिछले सप्ताह प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन ने इस कहानी में **अप्रत्याशित मोड़** जोड़ दिया है।
- Researchers have found that **waning immunity** against infections of the **Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV)** can predispose individuals to more severe dengue.
शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि **जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस वायरस (JEV)** संक्रमणों के खिलाफ घटती हुई प्रतिरक्षा व्यक्तियों को गंभीर डेंगू की ओर झुका सकती है।
- The finding highlights the complex interplay between related viruses and suggests a potential strategy to beat severe dengue through timely **booster doses** of the **JE vaccine**.
यह खोज संबंधित वायरसों के बीच जटिल पारस्परिक संबंध को उजागर करती है और गंभीर डेंगू को हराने की संभावित रणनीति सुझाती है — यानी समय पर **JE वैक्सीन की बूस्टर खुराक**।

Background of the study अध्ययन की पृष्ठभूमि

- Both **Japanese encephalitis virus** and **dengue virus** belong to the same genus, **Orthoflavivirus**.
जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस वायरस और **डेंगू वायरस** दोनों एक ही वंश, **ऑर्थोफ्लाविवायरस** से संबंधित हैं।
- Previous research had hinted at interactions between **JEV immunity** and **dengue outcomes**.
पिछले शोध ने **JEV प्रतिरक्षा** और **डेंगू परिणामों** के बीच संबंध की ओर संकेत किया था।
- To understand more, the present study, involving researchers from **Singapore, Nepal, and the U.S.**, examined three large dengue outbreaks in **Dharan in Nepal** between **2019 and 2023**.
और अधिक समझने के लिए, वर्तमान अध्ययन में **सिंगापुर, नेपाल और अमेरिका** के शोधकर्ताओं ने भाग लिया और **2019 से 2023** के बीच नेपाल के **धरान** में तीन बड़े डेंगू प्रकोपों का अध्ययन किया।
- Nepal provided a unique setting: the country has **high population immunity against JE** due to a successful **vaccination programme launched in 2006** — yet until recently, it had very limited exposure to dengue.
नेपाल ने एक अनूठा परिदृश्य प्रदान किया: देश में **2006 में शुरू किए गए सफल टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम** के कारण **JE के खिलाफ उच्च जनसंख्या प्रतिरक्षा** है — लेकिन हाल ही तक यहां डेंगू का बहुत सीमित संपर्क था।



- This made it possible to study how **JEV immunity** alone might influence dengue outcomes. इसने यह अध्ययन करना संभव बना दिया कि केवल **JEV प्रतिरक्षा** डेंगू के परिणामों को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकती है।
- Prior exposure to dengue itself is known to increase the risk of severe disease through **antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE)**. डेंगू के पूर्व संपर्क को **एंटीबॉडी-निर्भर संवर्धन (ADE)** के माध्यम से गंभीर बीमारी के जोखिम को बढ़ाने वाला माना जाता है।
- But in Nepal's largely **dengue-naïve population**, the impact of **JEV immunity** could be specifically isolated. लेकिन नेपाल की अधिकतर **डेंगू-नवसिखिया जनसंख्या** में, **JEV प्रतिरक्षा** के प्रभाव को विशेष रूप से अलग किया जा सकता था।

Striking results

चौंकाने वाले परिणाम

- For the study, the research team recruited dengue patients aged **15 to 65 years** early in their illness, i.e. within **three days of fever onset**, confirmed by **rapid diagnostic tests (NS1 or DENV IgM)**. अध्ययन के लिए, शोध दल ने **15 से 65 वर्ष** की आयु वाले डेंगू रोगियों को उनकी बीमारी की शुरुआत में ही, यानी **बुखार शुरू होने के तीन दिनों के भीतर**, त्वरित नैदानिक परीक्षण (**NS1 या DENV IgM**) से पुष्टि के बाद भर्ती किया।
- The study spanned **five years** and included **three major dengue outbreaks**, in **2019, 2022, and 2023**. अध्ययन **पांच वर्षों** तक चला और इसमें **2019, 2022 और 2023** के **तीन बड़े डेंगू प्रकोप** शामिल थे।
- In total, **546 patients** were enrolled and their blood samples were tested for viral serotypes, immune markers, and a biomarker called **chymase**. कुल मिलाकर **546 रोगियों** को शामिल किया गया और उनके रक्त नमूनों का परीक्षण **वायरल सीरोटाइप, इम्यून मार्कर और चाइमेज (chymase) नामक बायोमार्कर** के लिए किया गया।
- **Chymase** is an enzyme released by **mast cells** during inflammation, and it has been consistently validated in earlier studies as a marker of **severe dengue**. **चाइमेज** एक एंजाइम है जो **मास्ट कोशिकाओं** द्वारा सूजन के दौरान छोड़ा जाता है और इसे पहले के अध्ययनों में **गंभीर डेंगू** के मार्कर के रूप में लगातार मान्यता मिली है।
- Its levels have been found to be **elevated** during both the **acute and defervescence phases** of the illness. इसके स्तर बीमारी के **तीव्र और अवसाद चरणों** दोनों में **बढ़े हुए** पाए गए हैं।

Key Findings

मुख्य निष्कर्ष

- The findings, published in **Science Translational Medicine** on **September 3**, were striking. ये निष्कर्ष **3 सितंबर** को **साइंस ट्रांसलेशनल मेडिसिन** में प्रकाशित हुए और चौंकाने वाले थे।
- Approximately **61% of patients** had pre-existing antibodies that neutralised **JEV**, reflecting Nepal's relatively high level of immunity. लगभग **61% रोगियों** में **JEV** को निष्क्रिय करने वाली पूर्व-विद्यमान एंटीबॉडी थीं, जो नेपाल की अपेक्षाकृत उच्च प्रतिरक्षा को दर्शाती हैं।
- Individuals with confirmed **JEV immunity** showed significantly **higher concentrations of chymase** compared to **JEV-naïve patients**. **JEV प्रतिरक्षा** वाले व्यक्तियों में **JEV-नवसिखिया रोगियों** की तुलना में **चाइमेज की उच्च सांद्रता** पाई गई।
- This effect was primarily associated with **mid-range anti-JEV antibody titres of 1:160**. यह प्रभाव मुख्य रूप से **1:160 के मध्य-श्रेणी एंटी-JEV एंटीबॉडी टाइटर्स** से जुड़ा था।
- Patients with these titres had significantly higher **chymase levels** compared to those with titres of **1:10 or 1:40**. इन टाइटर्स वाले रोगियों में **1:10 या 1:40 टाइटर्स** वाले रोगियों की तुलना में **चाइमेज स्तर** काफी अधिक थे।
- Notably, this correlation was not observed when **anti-JEV ELISA titres** were used, possibly due to **cross-reactivity** with DENV-specific antibodies.



विशेष रूप से, यह संबंध तब नहीं देखा गया जब **एंटी-JEV ELISA टाइटर्स** का उपयोग किया गया, संभवतः **DENV-विशिष्ट एंटीबॉडी के साथ क्रॉस-रिएक्टिविटी** के कारण।

- The association between **mid-range JEV antibody titres** and **severe dengue** was also reflected in **clinical outcomes**.
मध्य-श्रेणी JEV एंटीबॉडी टाइटर्स और **गंभीर डेंगू** के बीच का संबंध **क्लिनिकल परिणामों** में भी देखा गया।
- The fraction of patients diagnosed with **dengue fever with warning signs** or **severe dengue** (WHO classification) was significantly higher among those with **titres of 1:160** compared to patients without JEV immunity.
चेतावनी संकेतों के साथ डेंगू बुखार या **गंभीर डेंगू** (WHO वर्गीकरण) से पीड़ित रोगियों का अनुपात **1:160 टाइटर्स** वाले रोगियों में उन रोगियों की तुलना में काफी अधिक था जिनमें JEV प्रतिरक्षा नहीं थी।
- These individuals had a **3x higher risk** of developing dengue fever with warning signs. इन व्यक्तियों में चेतावनी संकेतों के साथ डेंगू बुखार विकसित होने का **3 गुना अधिक जोखिम** था।
- Importantly, most participants were experiencing **primary dengue infections**, with only **7-10%** showing evidence of prior exposure.
महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, अधिकांश प्रतिभागी **प्राथमिक डेंगू संक्रमण** का अनुभव कर रहे थे, जबकि केवल **7-10%** में पूर्व संपर्क के साक्ष्य मिले।
- Even after excluding cases of **secondary dengue**, the results remained unchanged, strongly supporting the conclusion that **JEV immunity alone** is sufficient to modulate **dengue severity**, independent of prior DENV exposure.
यहां तक कि **द्वितीयक डेंगू** के मामलों को बाहर करने के बाद भी परिणाम अपरिवर्तित रहे, जो इस निष्कर्ष का दृढ़ समर्थन करते हैं कि केवल **JEV प्रतिरक्षा ही डेंगू की गंभीरता** को नियंत्रित करने के लिए पर्याप्त है, भले ही पूर्व DENV संपर्क न हो।

Echoes from other flaviviruses

अन्य फ्लैविवायरस से प्रतिध्वनि

- These findings echo earlier observations in studies of **Zika** and **dengue viruses**, where **moderate antibody levels** sometimes enhanced the viral infection of immune cells and worsened disease — while **very high titres** were protective.
ये निष्कर्ष **ज़िका** और **डेंगू वायरस** के अध्ययनों में पहले किए गए अवलोकनों की प्रतिध्वनि हैं, जहाँ **मध्यम स्तर की एंटीबॉडी** कभी-कभी प्रतिरक्षा कोशिकाओं के वायरल संक्रमण को बढ़ाती थीं और बीमारी को बिगाड़ देती थीं — जबकि **बहुत उच्च टाइटर्स** सुरक्षा प्रदान करते थे।
- This is to say, as **antibody levels wane** over time, populations may enter a vulnerable **“middle zone”** in which immunity is insufficient to protect but strong enough to enhance disease.
इसका मतलब है कि समय के साथ जब **एंटीबॉडी स्तर घटते** हैं, तो जनसंख्या एक संवेदनशील **“मध्य क्षेत्र”** में प्रवेश कर सकती है जहाँ प्रतिरक्षा सुरक्षा के लिए अपर्याप्त होती है लेकिन बीमारी को बढ़ाने के लिए पर्याप्त होती है।
- The implications are significant for **Asia**, where **JEV vaccination** is common and dengue is spreading, and for the complex and connected nature of public health in a **globalised world**.
इसके निहितार्थ **एशिया** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, जहाँ **JEV टीकाकरण** आम है और डेंगू फैल रहा है, और एक **वैश्वीकरण की दुनिया** में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य की जटिल और परस्पर जुड़ी प्रकृति के लिए भी।
- Specifically, the study showed that **rising temperature** and **extended monsoons** have caused the epidemiology of dengue fever to change rapidly, with increasingly bigger outbreaks in areas where there used to be only **sporadic cases**.
विशेष रूप से, अध्ययन ने दिखाया कि **बढ़ते तापमान** और **लंबे मानसून** ने डेंगू बुखार के महामारी विज्ञान को तेजी से बदल दिया है, जिससे उन क्षेत्रों में बड़े प्रकोप हो रहे हैं जहाँ पहले केवल **छिटपुट मामले** हुआ करते थे।
- Such regions include **India**, which is also facing similar kinds and levels of **climate change**.
ऐसे क्षेत्रों में **भारत** शामिल है, जो समान प्रकार और स्तर के **जलवायु परिवर्तन** का सामना कर रहा है।
- Thus, the authors suggest, the country needs to be ready with **appropriate strategies** to deal with the new challenges that will sprout as a result.
इसलिए, लेखक सुझाव देते हैं कि देश को परिणामस्वरूप उत्पन्न होने वाली नई चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए **उपयुक्त रणनीतियों** के साथ तैयार रहना चाहिए।



JE vaccination and immunity

JE टीकाकरण और प्रतिरक्षा

- Second, while the study clearly showed that **moderate titres** of neutralising antibodies against JEV can worsen outcomes with dengue fever, it does not undermine the importance of **JE vaccination** per se.
दूसरा, जबकि अध्ययन ने स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाया कि JEV के खिलाफ **मध्यम स्तर के न्यूट्रलाइजिंग एंटीबॉडी टाइटर्स** डेंगू बुखार के परिणामों को बिगाड़ सकते हैं, यह स्वयं में **JE टीकाकरण** के महत्व को कम नहीं करता।
- Such vaccination has successfully lowered the incidence of **JE** in the population.
ऐसे टीकाकरण ने जनसंख्या में **JE की घटनाओं** को सफलतापूर्वक कम कर दिया है।
- The findings of previous studies have shown that the titres of neutralising antibodies against JEV **wane after a few years** of vaccination.
पिछले अध्ययनों के निष्कर्षों ने दिखाया है कि JEV के खिलाफ न्यूट्रलाइजिंग एंटीबॉडी टाइटर्स टीकाकरण के **कुछ वर्षों बाद घट जाते हैं**।
- After **five years**, for example, only around **63% of vaccinated individuals** still have neutralising antibodies against JEV.
उदाहरण के लिए, **पांच साल** बाद केवल लगभग **63% टीकाकृत व्यक्तियों** में ही JEV के खिलाफ न्यूट्रलाइजिंग एंटीबॉडी होती हैं।
- Thus, the new study strongly suggests the need for **suitably timed JE vaccine boosters**, which could serve the dual purpose of maintaining **durable immunity** against JE for longer periods and protecting the population against the risk of dengue fever with warning signs and severe dengue.
इस प्रकार, नया अध्ययन **उचित समय पर JE वैक्सीन बूस्टर** की आवश्यकता का दृढ़ता से सुझाव देता है, जो लंबे समय तक JE के खिलाफ **स्थायी प्रतिरक्षा** बनाए रखने और चेतावनी संकेतों के साथ डेंगू बुखार और गंभीर डेंगू के जोखिम से जनसंख्या की रक्षा करने का दोहरा उद्देश्य पूरा कर सकता है।

Chymase as biomarker

चाइमेज बायोमार्कर के रूप में

- Third, the study reinforces the importance of **chymase** as a biomarker of dengue fever with warning signs and severe dengue, making it a convenient tool for physicians handling the uncertain trajectories of dengue fever.
तीसरा, अध्ययन **चाइमेज** के महत्व को मजबूत करता है, जो चेतावनी संकेतों के साथ डेंगू बुखार और गंभीर डेंगू का बायोमार्कर है, जिससे यह डेंगू बुखार की अनिश्चित प्रगति से निपटने वाले चिकित्सकों के लिए एक सुविधाजनक उपकरण बन जाता है।

Global significance

वैश्विक महत्व

- Viruses respect no borders. The new study provides critical insights into how **waning immunity** against one flavivirus can worsen outcomes of another.
वायरस सीमाओं का सम्मान नहीं करते। नया अध्ययन इस पर महत्वपूर्ण अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करता है कि एक फ्लैविविरस के खिलाफ **घटती प्रतिरक्षा** कैसे दूसरे के परिणामों को बिगाड़ सकती है।
- Strategically timed **JE boosters** could be a valuable tool not just in sustaining protection against **encephalitis** but also in mitigating the severity of **dengue** — a disease whose burden is rising sharply across **Asia**.
रणनीतिक रूप से समय पर दिए गए **JE बूस्टर** न केवल **एंसेफलाइटिस** के खिलाफ सुरक्षा बनाए रखने में बल्कि **डेंगू** की गंभीरता को कम करने में भी एक मूल्यवान उपकरण हो सकते हैं — यह एक ऐसी बीमारी है जिसका बोझ पूरे **एशिया** में तेजी से बढ़ रहा है।



- Such remarkable work ultimately underscores the importance of **integrated, forward-looking approaches** in infectious disease control, with insights that could save countless lives. ऐसा उल्लेखनीय कार्य अंततः संक्रामक रोग नियंत्रण में **एकीकृत और दूरदर्शी दृष्टिकोणों** के महत्व को रेखांकित करता है, जिनकी अंतर्दृष्टि अनगिनत जीवन बचा सकती है।

GS III: S&T to.in

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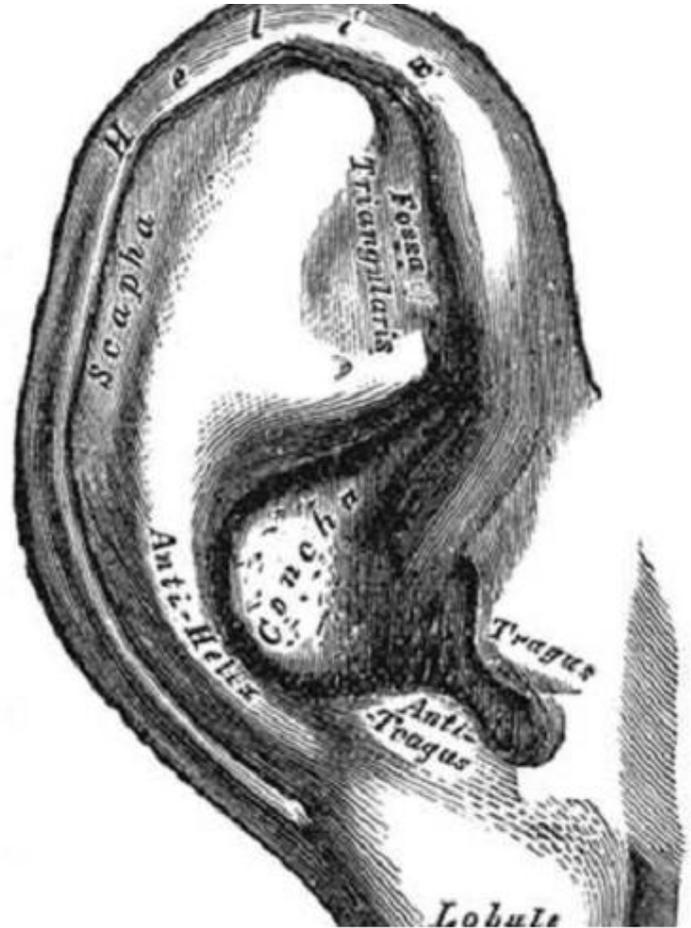
These materials can even 'cloak' objects such that they don't emit or reflect any sound. What are such advanced materials called? Hint: Their name means "subsequent to" or "after" materials.

Answers to September 16 quiz:

- Material dropped into Hurricane Esther's eyewall - **Ans: Silver iodide**
- Process that silver iodide induces in clouds - **Ans: Heterogenous nucleation**
- Country that objected to cloud-seeding typhoons - **Ans: China**
- Hurricane whose properties rejected Project Stormfury - **Ans: Allen**
- Leader who alleged Stormfury was a US attempt to weaponise storms - **Ans: Fidel Castro**

Visual: **Hurricane Nine (King)**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Harilakshmi M. | Amit Yadav | Anmol Agrawal | Tamal Biswas



Visual: What's the name for the part of the human ear visible outside the head? It's called the pinna in non-human animals. PUBLIC DOMAIN

QUIZ

Weather Modification in Hurricane Esther Introduction

- In meteorological experiments, scientists attempted **weather modification** to reduce the intensity of **Hurricane Esther**.
- These experiments were part of Project **Stormfury**, a U.S. government program conducted between **1962 and 1983**, aimed at **weakening tropical cyclones** through cloud seeding.

Material Used for Seeding

- Silver iodide (AgI)** was the primary material **dropped into the hurricane's eyewall**.
- Silver iodide acts as an **ice nucleating agent**, encouraging **supercooled water droplets** in clouds to freeze and form ice crystals.



- The goal was to **alter the internal structure of the hurricane**, reduce wind speeds, and **weaken the storm's intensity**.

Mechanism of Cloud Seeding in Hurricanes

- Hurricanes contain **supercooled water droplets** in their eyewall.
- Introducing **silver iodide** stimulates **freezing of these droplets**, releasing **latent heat**, which can modify convection patterns.
- Scientists hoped that this would **broaden the eyewall** and **reduce peak wind speeds**, theoretically lowering storm intensity.

Results and Observations

- **Hurricane Esther (1961)** was one of the early experiments, showing **temporary weakening**, but later studies suggested **natural fluctuations** could explain observed changes.
- Project Stormfury provided **valuable data** on hurricane dynamics, **even though large-scale modification proved impractical**.
- Cloud seeding experiments like these **pioneered modern understanding** of hurricane physics and storm modification techniques.

Significance

- **Silver iodide** remains a key material for **cloud seeding** in weather modification research worldwide.
- The experiments highlighted the **challenges of altering large natural systems**, emphasizing the **limitations of technology against large-scale natural phenomena**.
- Insights gained inform **modern hurricane tracking, modeling, and mitigation strategies**.

Heterogeneous Nucleation Induced by Silver Iodide in Clouds Introduction

- **Silver iodide (AgI)** is used in **cloud seeding** to induce **precipitation**.
- The process it triggers in clouds is called **heterogeneous nucleation**, a **key mechanism for ice formation** in supercooled clouds.

Heterogeneous Nucleation Explained

- **Heterogeneous nucleation** occurs when **ice crystals form on foreign particles** (called **nuclei**) rather than spontaneously.
- In the atmosphere, **supercooled water droplets** exist at temperatures below 0°C but remain liquid.
- When **silver iodide** particles are introduced, they act as **ice nuclei**, providing a **surface for water molecules to freeze**.
- This process **initiates ice crystal formation**, which can grow and fall as **snow or rain**, depending on temperature and altitude.

Why Silver Iodide is Effective

- The **crystal structure of AgI** is similar to **ice**, making it an **efficient nucleating agent**.
- It works at temperatures as high as **-5°C to -10°C**, which is suitable for **cloud seeding operations**.
- Compared to homogeneous nucleation (which requires lower temperatures, ~-40°C), **heterogeneous nucleation is practical for real-world weather modification**.

Applications in Weather Modification

- **Cloud seeding for rainfall enhancement** in drought-prone regions.



- **Hurricane experiments** (Project Stormfury) aimed at **weakening storms** by modifying internal cloud dynamics.
- **Snowpack augmentation** in mountainous regions to ensure **water supply**.

China's Objection to Cloud-Seeding Typhoons

Introduction

- **Cloud seeding** is a method of **weather modification** in which substances like **silver iodide** are introduced into clouds to **induce precipitation** or **weaken storms**.
- While experiments like **Project Stormfury** in the 1960s and 1970s aimed to **reduce the intensity of hurricanes**, not all countries supported such interventions.

China's Objection

- **China objected to cloud-seeding operations targeting typhoons**, citing **sovereignty and safety concerns**.
- The concern was that **modifying storms** in one area could **alter storm paths** and **impact neighboring countries**, potentially causing **unintended damage**.
- Cloud seeding of typhoons could **affect rainfall distribution**, **storm intensity**, and **coastal flooding**, which led to diplomatic and environmental debates.

Reasons for Objection

- **Transboundary Effects**: Typhoons move across national boundaries, so **altering their path** could affect other nations.
- **Scientific Uncertainty**: At the time, **storm modification techniques** were experimental with **unpredictable outcomes**.
- **Legal and Ethical Concerns**: International law lacks clear provisions on **manipulating weather**, and China raised **ethical and legal questions**.

Hurricane Allen and Project Stormfury

Introduction

- **Project Stormfury** was a **U.S. government experiment (1962–1983)** aimed at **weakening tropical cyclones** (hurricanes) using **cloud seeding techniques**.
- Scientists hoped that injecting **silver iodide** into hurricane **eyewalls** would **disrupt convection** and reduce storm intensity.

Hurricane Allen

- **Hurricane Allen (1980)** was one of the **most intense Atlantic hurricanes** recorded, with **peak winds exceeding 190 mph**.
- It traversed multiple Caribbean countries and the **southern United States**, causing extensive damage and fatalities.

Why Hurricane Allen Rejected Project Stormfury

- **Storm Structure**: Allen's **eye and eyewall** were extremely **well-organized and resilient**, making cloud-seeding effects negligible.
- **Intensity**: The hurricane's **high intensity** and large **energy scale** made it **resistant to human-induced modification**.
- **Scientific Outcome**: Observations during Allen demonstrated that **hurricanes could not be significantly weakened** using cloud seeding, unlike earlier smaller storms tested.
- **End of Project Stormfury**: Allen's example, along with other data, **led scientists to conclude that large-scale hurricane modification was impractical**, and the project was eventually **discontinued in 1983**.

Scientific Significance



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



- **Understanding Hurricane Dynamics:** Highlighted the **complexity of hurricane convection and energy distribution.**
- **Limits of Weather Modification:** Proved that **human intervention cannot reliably alter major hurricanes.**
- **Shift in Focus:** Researchers moved from **modification attempts to improved forecasting and early warning systems.**

Fidel Castro and Allegations Against Project Stormfury Introduction

- **Fidel Castro** was the **Prime Minister (later President) of Cuba**, serving from **1959 to 2008.**
- During his tenure, Cuba was highly affected by **Atlantic hurricanes**, which frequently caused **widespread damage** to the island.

Project Stormfury Context

- **Project Stormfury (1962–1983)** was a **U.S. government experiment** aimed at **modifying hurricanes** using **cloud seeding techniques** (silver iodide injections).
- The stated goal was **storm weakening**, but the program involved **testing on hurricanes over the Atlantic**, which could affect **Caribbean nations including Cuba.**

Castro's Allegation

- Fidel Castro publicly claimed that **Project Stormfury was not just scientific**, but potentially a **U.S. attempt to weaponize storms.**
- He expressed concerns that **modifying hurricanes** could be used as a **geopolitical tool** against nations in the Caribbean region.
- This reflected the **Cold War context**, where Cuba was wary of **U.S. interventions** following the **Bay of Pigs invasion (1961)** and the **Cuban Missile Crisis (1962).**

Scientific and Political Relevance

- **Hurricane Modification Limits:** Later research confirmed that hurricanes like **Allen** could not be significantly altered by cloud seeding.
- **Political Tensions:** Castro's statement highlighted **environmental manipulation as a potential weapon**, an early instance of **geoengineering concerns in geopolitics.**
- **Shift to Disaster Preparedness:** The controversy emphasized the importance of **hurricane tracking, early warning systems, and disaster preparedness** rather than attempts to modify storms.



'First round of FTA talks with Russia bloc EAEU likely in Nov.'

The next round of negotiations for the FTA between India and the European Union will take place October 6-10, as per a govt. source

GS III: India-EAEU

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The first round of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which includes Russia, is likely to take place in early November, according to the Russian embassy. However, this is yet to be confirmed by the Indian government.

In addition, the next two months are going to see rounds of FTA talks between India and the EU, Chile, Peru, and a review of the FTA with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In a statement, the Embassy of Russia in India said Minister in charge of Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission An-



Down to business: Piyush Goyal with EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič during India, EU FTA talks. ANI (FILE PHOTO)

drey Slepnev met Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on September 15.

"The Ministers agreed on an approach under which the first round of negotiations is set to take place in early November this year in India and focus on discussing the core as-

pects of the future deal," the statement said. "It will be preceded by intensive consultations between the Commission, Indian partners, and the EAEU Member States." The Indian government, however, has not confirmed the date of the first round of negotiations.

'First round of FTA talks with Russia bloc EAEU likely in Nov.'

'रूस ब्लॉक EAEU के साथ FTA वार्ता का पहला दौर नवंबर में होने की संभावना'



- The **next round of negotiations** for the **FTA** between **India** and the **European Union** will take place **October 6-10**, as per a **govt. source**.
भारत और यूरोपीय संघ के बीच FTA के लिए अगला दौर वार्ता 6-10 अक्टूबर को होगा, सरकारी सूत्रों के अनुसार।
- The **first round of negotiations** for a **free trade agreement (FTA)** between **India** and the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)**, which includes **Russia**, is likely to take place in **early November**, according to the **Russian embassy**.
भारत और यूरोशियन इकोनॉमिक यूनियन (EAEU), जिसमें रूस शामिल है, के बीच मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA) की पहली दौर की वार्ता नवंबर की शुरुआत में होने की संभावना है, रूसी दूतावास के अनुसार।
- However, this is yet to be **confirmed** by the **Indian government**.
हालांकि, इसे अभी तक भारतीय सरकार द्वारा पुष्टि नहीं की गई है।
- In addition, the **next two months** are going to see **rounds of FTA talks** between **India** and the **EU, Chile, Peru**, and a **review of the FTA** with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**.
इसके अलावा, अगले दो महीनों में भारत और यूरोपीय संघ (EU), चिली, पेरू के बीच FTA वार्ता के दौर, और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई देशों के संघ (ASEAN) के साथ FTA की समीक्षा होने वाली है।
- In a statement, the **Embassy of Russia in India** said **Minister in charge of Trade** of the **Eurasian Economic Commission Andrey Slepnev** met **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal** on **September 15**.
एक बयान में, भारत में रूसी दूतावास ने कहा कि यूरोशियन इकोनॉमिक कमीशन के वाणिज्य मंत्री आंद्रे स्लेपनेव ने 15 सितंबर को वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल से मुलाकात की।
- “The **Ministers agreed** on an approach under which the **first round of negotiations** is set to take place in **early November** this year in **India** and focus on discussing the **core aspects of the future deal**.” the statement said.
“मंत्रियों ने सहमति व्यक्त की कि इस वर्ष नवंबर की शुरुआत में भारत में पहली दौर की वार्ता होगी और यह भविष्य के समझौते के मुख्य पहलुओं पर चर्चा पर केंद्रित होगी,” बयान में कहा गया।
- “It will be preceded by **intensive consultations** between the **Commission, Indian partners**, and the **EAEU Member States**.”
“इससे पहले कमीशन, भारतीय भागीदारों, और EAEU सदस्य देशों के बीच गहन विचार-विमर्श होगा।”
- The **Indian government**, however, has not **confirmed** the **date of the first round of negotiations**.
हालांकि, भारतीय सरकार ने अभी तक पहली दौर की वार्ता की तारीख की पुष्टि नहीं की है।



SEBI may okay banks' investing in non-agriculture derivatives

GS III: Capital Market

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI

SEBI will "engage" with the government to allow banks, insurance companies and pension funds to invest in non-agriculture

commodity derivative markets, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

He said SEBI is also looking at a proposal to allow foreign portfolio investors to trade in non-cash settled, non-agricultural com-

modity derivative contracts.

"We will engage with the government to consider banks, insurance firms and pension funds to trade in the (non-cash, non-agricultural) markets," he said.

SEBI may okay banks' investing in non-agriculture derivatives गैर-कृषि डेरिवेटिव्स में बैंकों के निवेश को SEBI मंजूरी दे सकता है

- SEBI will "engage" with the government to allow banks, insurance companies and pension funds to invest in non-agriculture commodity derivative markets, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.
SEBI सरकार के साथ "संवाद" करेगा ताकि बैंकों, बीमा कंपनियों और पेंशन फंड्स को गैर-कृषि कमोडिटी डेरिवेटिव मार्केट्स में निवेश करने की अनुमति दी जा सके, ऐसा चेयरमैन तुहिन कांत पांडे ने कहा।
- He said SEBI is also looking at a proposal to allow foreign portfolio investors to trade in non-cash settled, non-agricultural commodity derivative contracts.
उन्होंने कहा कि SEBI विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों को गैर-नकद निपटान, गैर-कृषि कमोडिटी डेरिवेटिव कॉन्ट्रैक्ट्स में व्यापार करने की अनुमति देने के प्रस्ताव पर भी विचार कर रहा है।
- "We will engage with the government to consider banks, insurance firms and pension funds to trade in the (non-cash, non-agricultural) markets," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "हम सरकार के साथ संवाद करेंगे ताकि बैंक, बीमा कंपनियां और पेंशन फंड्स (गैर-नकद, गैर-कृषि) बाजारों में व्यापार कर सकें।"